

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 -----
4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

5 -versus-

08-CR-77

6 LINDA O'CONNOR and DEAN SACCO.
7 -----

8 TRANSCRIPT OF JURY TRIAL

9 held in and for the United States District Court,
10 Northern District of New York, at the Federal Building and
11 Courthouse, 15 Henry Street, Binghamton, New York, on
12 TUESDAY, May 20, 2008, before the HON. THOMAS J. McAVOY,
13 Senior United States District Court Judge, PRESIDING.

14 APPEARANCES:

15 FOR THE GOVERNMENT:

16 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

17 BY: MIROSLAV LOVRIC, AUSA

18 Binghamton, New York

19 FOR THE DEFENDANT O'CONNOR:

20 FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

21 BY: LISA PEEBLES, AFPD

22 Syracuse, New York

23 FOR THE DEFENDANT SACCO:

24 KELLY FISCHER, ESQ.

25 Binghamton, New York

1 MR. LOVRIC: There's something we need to put
2 on the record, Judge.

3 THE COURT: Go ahead.

4 MR. LOVRIC: Judge, I've informed counsel that
5 it is my intention to request of the Court to allow Dr. Toth
6 to observe the testimony of the victim. The defense has
7 given the government notice they intend to call as an expert
8 witness a psychologist. They've provided to me a summary of
9 what they anticipate they'll testify about. I don't know yet
10 but it may be that I will be calling Dr. Toth on my rebuttal,
11 depending on what their psychologist ends up testifying
12 about, and one of the areas that I would be calling Dr. Toth,
13 if rebuttal is required, it would be to have her talk about
14 certain things that this victim is going to testify to at
15 trial. And in order for her to be able to make some
16 conclusions and opinions I need her to be able to not only
17 know what the victim testified but to see her demeanor and
18 watch her live testimony. So, I am requesting the
19 psychologist, Dr. Toth, be allowed to watch the victim's
20 testimony. Otherwise, I don't believe that I'll be able to
21 elicit from her certain types of information because she will
22 not have seen the testimony. I've asked defense counsel
23 their position. I think there is an objection but that's my
24 request.

25 THE COURT: All right. What's the objection?

1 MISS PEEBLES: Well, your Honor, for obvious
2 reasons, if the government intends to call her on their
3 rebuttal case, we would object. She should be sequestered
4 like all the other witnesses in this case and she's had ample
5 opportunity to review the videotapes where she gave
6 disclosures. She's had numerous consultations with this
7 child. Based on that, your Honor, I would object. I don't
8 think there's any reason for it other than to try to bolster
9 her credibility with her sitting in the courtroom and, your
10 Honor, we would object.

11 THE COURT: It's customary and, it's as far as
12 I know, appropriate for any expert who is going to give an
13 opinion in a case to be able to sit through the case in chief
14 or the presentation of evidence about what that expert's
15 going to testify. And I don't see any reason that this is
16 any different than any other case. In other words, for
17 example, most common example, if you've got a products case,
18 and people are on the stand saying here's what the product
19 did or didn't do, you've got the expert out there listening
20 and he's able to see from what's happening in the courtroom
21 what both sides have said about the product, and is able to
22 incorporate that into his expert opinion. Just because the
23 expert has had exposure to the victim in this case, and has
24 actually, as I understand it, was a treating physician of
25 sorts, I don't think that means that we have to exclude her

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1 from the courtroom. Likewise, your psychologist would be
2 permitted to be here while the victim was testifying or while
3 Dr. Toth was testifying. So it's kind of a two-way street.
4 That's my ruling. So we ready?

5 MR. LOVRIC: Yes, Judge.

6 THE COURT: Yes. Get the jury.

7 (Jury present).

8 THE COURT: Morning, ladies and gentlemen.
9 Are you happy it's winter again? I let my dog out to run
10 this morning, clipping through the frost, leaving footprints
11 after I planted my garden. What are you going to do. All
12 right.

13 Mr. Lovric, who do you got for us?

14 MR. LOVRIC: Your Honor, the next witness we
15 call is Shannon O'Connor.

16 THE COURT: All right.

17 THE CLERK: Please state your full name.

18 THE WITNESS: Shannon Nicole O'Connor.
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21
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25

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1 S H A N N O N O' C O N N O R, having been called as a
2 witness, being duly sworn, testified as follows:

3 DIRECT EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. LOVRIC:

5 Q Morning, Shannon.

6 A Morning.

7 Q Okay. I'm going to ask you to try to speak into
8 that microphone, okay?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. And when I ask you questions make sure you
11 don't just nod your head, okay?

12 A Okay.

13 Q All right. Shannon, you a little nervous?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Let's start with, Shannon, how old are you?

16 A Fourteen.

17 Q And what month is your birthday in?

18 A December.

19 Q Shannon, not the location but where you living
20 these days, what kind of a place is it?

21 A RTF.

22 Q Okay. What kind of a place is that?

23 A It's a residential treatment facility. It's a
24 place where I'm safe.

25 Q Okay. And who else lives there at that residential

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1 facility?

2 A Other kids.

3 Q Okay. Are their kids your age there?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Are their kids younger than you?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Are there any older kids or you kind of one of the
8 older ones there?

9 A There's older kids.

10 Q Okay. And how long have you been at that
11 residential center now?

12 A Since March 26.

13 Q Okay. And how do you like it there?

14 A I love it.

15 Q What do you like about it?

16 A There's horseback riding and we go shopping a lot.
17 There's a huge playground and a baseball field and there's
18 really caring people there, and there's good kids because I
19 made a lot of friends.

20 Q Okay. And while you've been living at this
21 residential center, do you also have people that work with
22 you, either social workers or psychologists?

23 A Yes.

24 Q How are those people?

25 A They're wonderful. Very caring, friendly. They're

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1 really nice.

2 Q Okay. Now, Shannon, before you came to this
3 residential facility, where were you staying or living before
4 that?

5 A At GBC.

6 Q What is that?

7 A It's psychiatric hospital.

8 Q Okay. Was that right here in the Binghamton area?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. And do you remember about how long you had
11 been at the Greater Binghamton Health Center before going to
12 this residential center?

13 A Since September 19.

14 Q Okay. That would be September 19 of last year?

15 A M-m h-m-m.

16 Q And how would you describe -- how are things when
17 you were at the Binghamton Health Center for you?

18 A It was good. I got the help I needed. It was all
19 right. It got me through stuff.

20 Q Okay. Now, Shannon, I'd like to talk about a lot
21 of different things today. But one of the things I first
22 want to cover with you is now you and I have met a number of
23 times, is that correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. You remember coming to this building, the

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1 Federal Building a few times?

2 A Yes.

3 Q About how many times do you remember coming to this
4 building approximately?

5 A Like five times, around five times.

6 Q Okay. And then did I also come to see you at this
7 residential center where you're staying right now?

8 A Yes.

9 Q How many times do you remember me coming to see
10 you?

11 A I believe two.

12 Q Okay. And during some of our meetings, was Jim
13 Lyons also with us?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And then during some of the meetings, was he not
16 there?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. And during the times that I met with you, do
19 you remember any of the other people that were present when
20 we met?

21 A I do.

22 Q Okay. Who were some of the other people that were
23 there during our meetings?

24 A Michelle, MacNamara, I believe that was it.

25 Q Okay. How about the meetings at the Federal

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1 Building?

2 A There was you, me, Liz, and Michelle.

3 Q Okay. Michelle, do you know Michelle's last name?

4 A Toth.

5 Q Is she a doctor?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. And during the times that I met with you and
8 we sat down and talked, were these meetings sometimes several
9 hours at a time we met?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And did we talk about all the things that we're
12 going to talk about here today?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And during these meetings did I actually tell you,
15 go over with you the kind of questions that I would be asking
16 and things that I'd be talking with you about?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Now, before coming here today, Shannon, to testify,
19 did I or did anybody show you any reports or have you read
20 anything over?

21 A No.

22 Q Did I show you or have you looked at any
23 videotapes?

24 A No.

25 Q Did I or anybody show you or have you listened to

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1 any tape recordings or recorded conversations?

2 A No.

3 Q Has anybody shown you or given you anything to read
4 prior to coming here at any of those meetings?

5 A No.

6 Q While we talked at those meetings, was it going
7 over things without having you read anything?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Shannon, I'd like to start and talk with you about
10 your mom, Linda O'Connor, and a person named Dean Sacco. Do
11 you know those two people?

12 A Yes.

13 Q I'd like you to take a look around in court and
14 tell me if you see those two people in court?

15 A That's my mom and there he is.

16 Q Okay. Your mom's standing right here behind me?

17 A (Nods head).

18 Q Do you see Dean Sacco in court?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Could you just tell us what he's wearing?

21 A Blue button-up shirt.

22 Q Okay.

23 MR. LOVRIC: Just for the record, Judge,
24 identifying defendants O'Connor and Sacco.

25 THE COURT: Record will so reflect. I said

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1 the record will so reflect. Means you did identify them.

2 Q Shannon, aside from your mom, what other relatives
3 do you have that either live in the area or that you had any
4 contact with?

5 A Like real relatives, like blood?

6 Q Yeah. Relatives either through family or through
7 extended family.

8 A It's just my mom around these areas.

9 Q Okay. What I'd like to do is I'd like to talk with
10 you a little bit about the area that you grew up in. Going
11 back, what's the first memories you have as far as growing up
12 as a kid, where is that you remember?

13 A Deposit.

14 Q Okay. And the Deposit area, is that the area that
15 you primarily grew up in as a kid?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. What places do you remember living in
18 Deposit?

19 A Forty-four Pine Street, 11 River Street. That's
20 all I remember.

21 Q Okay. And when you lived in Deposit at those
22 places, who did you live with at those locations?

23 A My mom.

24 Q Okay. Do you remember or do you have any memories
25 of your brother?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q Where do you remember your brother being -- living
3 with you?

4 A He used to visit when I lived at 44 Pine Street.
5 He came up a couple of times.

6 Q Okay. Was he living with you at 44 Pine Street?

7 A No.

8 Q Did you know where with he was living at that time?

9 A I don't remember.

10 Q Okay. Now, when you lived at 44 Pine Street and 11
11 River Street, who else lived at those places?

12 A You mean in our house?

13 Q Yeah. In our house.

14 A Just me and my mom.

15 Q Okay. And your brother was not living there?

16 A No.

17 Q I'd like to talk about 44 Pine Street a little bit.

18 Okay. When you were living at the Pine Street address,
19 where -- let me see how I can put this. When you were at
20 Pine Street were just you and your mom living at that
21 address?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And where were you going to school at that time?

24 A Deposit Elementary School.

25 Q Okay. And when you were at Pine Street, the

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1 memories that you have, about how old are you when you're
2 living at Pine Street?

3 A I think the oldest I was there was ten.

4 Q Okay. And then after Pine Street, you moved to the
5 11 River Street?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And for about how long approximately do you
8 remember living at River Street?

9 A Up until June 2006.

10 Q Okay. Something happened in June of 2006?

11 A The flood occurred and we lost our home.

12 Q Okay. And from June of 2006 going backwards, about
13 how long was it that you and your mom lived at River Street,
14 just approximately?

15 A I believe around two years.

16 Q Okay. And then prior to that you were at the Pine
17 Street?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Now, when you lived at Pine Street, did you know or
20 did you get to know a person by the name of George and Renee
21 Lang, persons named George and Renee Lang?

22 A Yes.

23 Q How do you remember first getting to know them or
24 meeting them?

25 A They came over one day to help my mom with her

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1 computer and that's when I met them.

2 Q Okay. Now, at which house were you living when you
3 first met and got to know George and Renee Lang?

4 A Forty-four Pine Street.

5 Q Okay. And you mentioned a computer. Do you know
6 where your mom got that computer?

7 A I believe from Erin Carol.

8 Q Who is Erin Carol?

9 A She was a friend and she was also my Godmother.

10 Q And the computer that your mom got from Erin, did
11 she have that set up at Pine Street?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Did you ever play on the computer, did she let you
14 play on the computer?

15 A Yeah, we used to play games on it.

16 Q Okay. Now, you mentioned that the way you met
17 George and Renee, they would come over and help her on the
18 computer, your mom?

19 A Yeah.

20 Q Who was it that helped your mom on the computer?

21 A George.

22 Q Did Renee ever help your mom on the computer?

23 A No.

24 Q Did she seem to know anything about computers?

25 A No.

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1 Q Okay. And at the time when you're living at Pine
2 Street, did your mom and you belong to any church in town?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Where was that?

5 A Assemblies of God in Deposit.

6 Q And from time to time did you and your mom attend
7 that church?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Do you remember who the pastor was of the church?

10 A Pastor Kathy Myrick.

11 Q Did you know Pastor Myrick?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q What was she like?

14 A She was a great mother to her kids. Very nice.
15 Was a real sweet woman.

16 Q Did you ever stay or spend any time with her?

17 A Yes. I used to visit her daughter and hang out.
18 When my mom had brain surgery I spent a couple nights there
19 when I was really, really younger.

20 Q And did Pastor Myrick from time to time talk to you
21 about, you know, just generally things that are going on and
22 things in your life?

23 A I don't honestly remember. All I remember is just
24 really hanging out with her daughter and that's it.

25 Q Now, did George and Renee ever belong to that

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1 church?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. Did you ever see them there?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And when you were at Pine Street, how often would
6 you see George and Renee Lang about, just kind of give us an
7 idea?

8 A I don't remember. Usually it was to help my mom
9 with the computer. Yeah. I don't honestly remember.

10 Q Okay. At any point in time did you and your mom go
11 to George and Renee Lang's house?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. When did that -- when did that start? Were
14 you living at Pine Street or you were not living at Pine
15 Street?

16 A Once in Pine Street George and Renee had me go up
17 to just to look around the place because I loved the country
18 and I went up that time but I honestly think that when we
19 started going up there we were at 11 River Street.

20 Q Okay. So if you had been there visiting when you
21 guys were at Pine Street, it was maybe once or twice or just
22 an occasion?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q And then when you moved to River Street, did it
25 become more often that you would go to the Lang house?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q Now, Shannon, when you lived at Pine Street, do you
3 know how it was that your mom was paying for rent?

4 A At Pine Street?

5 Q Right.

6 A I think she was paying it.

7 Q Do you know how or you just don't know?

8 A I don't know. I was not really focused on that.

9 Q Okay. When your mom lived at River Street, do you
10 know how she was paying for rent there?

11 A Sometimes with checks, money and I think George
12 helped her out sometimes.

13 MISS PEEBLES: Objection to what she thinks,
14 Judge.

15 THE COURT: I'm sorry. She was testifying as
16 far as she knows, yes.

17 MISS PEEBLES: Could that last part be
18 stricken from the record? It's what she thinks, she doesn't
19 know.

20 THE COURT: No, it's a way of speaking.
21 Overruled.

22 BY THE COURT:

23 Q Now, Shannon, when you were at -- living at Pine
24 Street, okay, we're going to talk about that for a little
25 bit. Did something start to happen at Pine Street while you

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1 were living there between you and your mom?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. What was it that started to happen?

4 A I was in the bathtub and she would try to wash me
5 and I would be like, I'm old enough to do it myself and then
6 as time went on she would -- like I'd get out of the bathtub,
7 she'd start drying me off and touching me.

8 Q Okay. Now, at that time when this started to
9 happen, you were about how old?

10 A I believe ten.

11 Q Okay. Now, before this started to happen, had you
12 been washing yourself and bathing by yourself?

13 A Yes.

14 Q For about how long before this started to happen?

15 A A couple of years, I believe.

16 Q Okay. And when your mom first started to touch
17 you, where was it physically in the house that you were when
18 this first started?

19 A When it first started was in the bathroom.

20 Q Okay. Would she just come into the bathroom?

21 A Yeah.

22 Q What did she say to you when she started doing
23 this?

24 A I would say I'm old enough to do it, she would say
25 that -- I don't remember.

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1 Q Okay. Did you tell your mom you didn't want her to
2 touch you?

3 A Yeah, because I kept saying I was old enough and
4 I'd tell her to stop.

5 Q Okay. Would she stop when you would tell her to
6 stop?

7 A No.

8 Q When you say she started to touch you, where would
9 she touch you when this first started happening?

10 A In my vagina.

11 Q Would she rub it or would she insert her fingers
12 into your vagina?

13 A She would rub it.

14 Q Did she rub any other part of your body?

15 A My breasts but I really didn't have a lot of them.

16 Q Your breasts weren't developed yet?

17 A No.

18 Q After the touching began in the bathroom, did your
19 mom take you anywhere else inside the house?

20 A After a little while she took me to her bedroom.

21 Q What happened in the bedroom?

22 A She would have me touch her and she'd touch me.

23 Q Okay. When you were in your mom's bedroom, were
24 you naked?

25 A Yes.

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1 Q What about your mom?

2 A She was also naked.

3 Q And when you say she asked you to touch her, where
4 would she have you touch her?

5 A Her breasts and her vagina.

6 Q And where would she touch you in the bedroom?

7 A My vagina.

8 Q Shannon, was the touching in the bedroom, was it
9 touching or was there any other things that you would do to
10 your mom or your mom would do to you?

11 A She would kiss me and she told me to kiss her back.

12 Q Okay. Where would you kiss her back?

13 A She would either tell me her mouth or her vagina.

14 Q And when she was kissing you, where would she kiss
15 you?

16 A Sometimes on my mouth and sometimes on my vagina.

17 Q When these things were happening in the bedroom,
18 and in the bathroom, were you telling your mom anything about
19 whether you wanted to do this or didn't want to do this?

20 A I told her to stop a couple of times but she said
21 that she was my mother and I was supposed to do what she
22 said.

23 Q And this was about when you were about ten years
24 old?

25 A I believe so.

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1 Q Did you at some point stop telling your mom to
2 stop?

3 A Yeah, because it was useless.

4 Q When these things happened at Pine Street, was
5 there anybody else involved when you were at Pine Street with
6 touching you or being present when you and your mom, when
7 your mom was doing this?

8 A Not at Pine Street.

9 Q How would you describe the touching by your mom of
10 you and your touching her, how often would this happen at
11 Pine Street?

12 A Like -- couple times like a month.

13 Q Okay. Did you at Pine Street, did you and your mom
14 get into arguments at Pine Street?

15 A We got in a couple.

16 Q Okay. What was going on, what was happening as far
17 as these arguments are concerned?

18 A It seemed like the more she spent -- like even if
19 George would come over to help on the computer, she would get
20 angry very quickly and like it would be over stuff like
21 washing the dishes or she would just get angry and I could
22 have said something like back talk and she would get angry
23 and we'd fight.

24 Q Did you and your mom get into physical fights?

25 A I hit my head once on -- to put our Christmas tree

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1 up we had stones in a bucket, the real one, and one time I
2 hit my head on the stone like in the bucket. If my clothes
3 were messed up like and in my closet sometimes she'd get mad
4 and start throwing hangers and stuff.

5 Q Okay. How did you feel when your mom was touching
6 you and these things were happening in her bedroom?

7 A It -- I was very, very scared and my thought was
8 why would a mother do this?

9 Q Did your express to your mother how you felt how
10 scared you were?

11 A No.

12 Q Did she ever say to you why this kept happening,
13 why this kept occurring?

14 A No.

15 Q At that time when you were at Pine Street, did you
16 know whether or not your mother had any kind of pornography
17 on that computer at Pine Street?

18 A Not at Pine Street, I believe she didn't.

19 Q Okay.

20 A Because she was just learning how to use it.

21 Q Okay. At some point when -- at some point you
22 moved to 11 River Street?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Do you know why it was your mom moved from Pine
25 Street to River Street?

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1 A I asked to move a couple of times because when we'd
2 get groceries we'd have to carry them upstairs and that was
3 kind of a pain and our dog barked so we thought if we moved
4 somewhere downstairs, it would be a lot easier and maybe the
5 neighbors wouldn't be so mad about our dog barking.

6 Q Okay. And your mom ended up moving to the River
7 Street apartment?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Now, prior to moving to River Street, did you ever
10 tell anybody about what your mom was doing to you?

11 A No.

12 Q Nobody?

13 A No.

14 Q How come you didn't tell anybody?

15 A I was scared and I thought they wouldn't believe
16 me.

17 Q Did your mom ever say anything to you about telling
18 anybody?

19 A Not at Pine Street.

20 Q Okay. Not while these things were happening at
21 Pine Street?

22 A No.

23 Q Now, when you moved to River Street, did your mom
24 have any computers at River Street?

25 A Yes.

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1 Q Okay. Can you tell us about them. What do you
2 remember about the River Street house?

3 A We had the computer that Aunt Carol gave us for a
4 little bit and then George had took my mom shopping and she
5 got another one or he bought it or something but he had got
6 another one.

7 Q So how many computers did you have at River Street?

8 A Two.

9 Q Now, when you're living at River Street, you
10 indicated that you thought it was a couple of years that you
11 lived at the River Street house?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And did George continue to come over to River
14 Street?

15 A Yeah, and then we started going up there a lot
16 more.

17 Q Okay. Up there being -- meaning what, to whose
18 house?

19 A To George's house and Renee's house.

20 Q Okay. And when you lived at River Street, was it
21 George that would come over or would Renee come over at
22 times?

23 A They would both come over sometimes. Most likely
24 they were both over but a couple times they came over alone.

25 Q Okay. And did you notice whether or not your mom

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1 was doing more things on the computer or less things when you
2 were at River Street?

3 A At River Street she started doing a lot more. She
4 spent a lot of her time on it talking to George and looking
5 at pictures and stuff.

6 Q Okay. Now, when you started to go to George and
7 Renee's house, okay, once you moved to 11 River Street, what
8 was their house like, what was their property like?

9 A They lived kind of like on a hill. It was in the
10 country. They lived in a trailer.

11 Q Okay. Did anybody else live with them there?

12 A No.

13 Q Okay. Just George and Renee?

14 A M-m h-m-m.

15 Q Okay. Now, Shannon, I'd like to show you three
16 things that I marked. Okay. I'm just going to show you and
17 ask you to take a look at these things first, okay?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Now, this first thing has got a number on it, it's
20 number 90 and the second item has 91, and the third one has
21 92. Okay. If you can take a look at the first one which is
22 on your left. It has number 90 on the back of it. Do you
23 recognize what that is?

24 A That's me with --

25 Q You know, you've just got to pull that mike up so

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1 we can hear you.

2 A Sorry. It's me at George's house, George and
3 Renee's house with the dogs.

4 Q Okay. And is that the place that you described
5 that you went up to visit at the Lang's?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. And then what is the middle item there which
8 has number 91 on the back, what is that?

9 A That's me and George and he's standing by the grill
10 with me. We have a pitch fork.

11 Q Okay. And then the item to the far right, number
12 92, what is that a picture of?

13 A George and my mom and he had a pitch fork.

14 Q Okay.

15 MR. LOVRIC: Judge, I would offer Government's
16 Exhibits 90, 91 and 92.

17 MISS PEEBLES: No objection.

18 THE COURT: Mr. Fischer?

19 MR. FISCHER: Can I see them for one moment,
20 please? No objection. Thank you.

21 THE COURT: All right. Receive Government's
22 90, 91, and 92 in evidence.

23 BY MR. LOVRIC:

24 Q Just wrestling with the machine here, Judge.
25 Shannon, I'm going to put on the monitor -- you can see it

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1 there on the right-hand side -- Government Exhibit number 90.

2 Can you see that Shannon?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. Do you recognize that little girl there?

5 A Yeah.

6 Q Who is that?

7 A That was me.

8 Q Okay. And about how old do you think or how old do
9 you believe you are in that picture?

10 A I'm not quite sure.

11 Q Okay. Little bit younger than you are today?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Whose dogs are those?

14 A George and Renee's.

15 Q And in what part of the house is that picture
16 taken?

17 A The living room.

18 Q Okay. And the person standing back there where I
19 just put a green arrow, who's that?

20 A It's George Lang.

21 Q And I put a green arrow on the computer there. Do
22 you know whose computer that is?

23 A It's George's.

24 Q Okay. Now in that house, was there any other
25 computer besides the one we see in that picture?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1468

1 A No.

2 Q Shannon, I'm going to put on the screen Government
3 Exhibit number 91. Can you see that?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Okay. And that's a picture of who?

6 A George and me.

7 Q And is that also taken somewhere outside of that
8 property?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And, Shannon, I'll put on the screen Exhibit number
11 92. Can you see that?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. That's a picture of who?

14 A My mom and George.

15 Q Also taken at the George and Renee's house?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Now, Shannon, when you and your mom moved to 11
18 River Street and then began going more often to George and
19 Renee's house, was George sick at that time?

20 A No.

21 Q Okay. Do you know or did you know that at some
22 point later on he became sick?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q Okay. But at the time that you first knew the
25 Lang's and began to go to their house, was he at all sick at

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1469

1 that time?

2 A Not when we first began, no.

3 Q Now, Shannon, I'd like to show you what's already
4 in evidence but I'd like to show you some pictures and just
5 talk about it for a second. I'm going to put on the screen
6 there Government Exhibit number 10 which is already in
7 evidence. Can you see that picture?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. Do you recognize what's in that picture?

10 A The two computers and the bed frame. It was after
11 the flood.

12 Q Okay. What house is that?

13 A Eleven River Street.

14 Q And are those the two computers that you talked
15 about earlier?

16 A Yes.

17 Q That your mom had at that house?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Do you know what happened to those computers after
20 the flood?

21 A No.

22 Q Did you ever see those computers after the flood?

23 A No.

24 Q Did your mom ever tell you what happened to those
25 computers?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1470

1 A No.

2 Q You don't know what happened to them, where they
3 went?

4 A No.

5 Q When after River Street, after the floods, did you
6 at some point, you and your mom, move to a different area?

7 A We moved to Norwich in August.

8 Q Okay. Did those computers come with you and your
9 mom to Norwich?

10 A No.

11 Q Did you ever see them at Norwich?

12 A No.

13 Q Shannon, I'm going to show you what's already in
14 evidence as Government Exhibit number 11. Do you see that
15 photo?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. Do you recognize the outside of the building
18 in that photo?

19 A Yes.

20 Q What is that a picture of?

21 A Eleven River Street. Our house.

22 Q Okay. The house that you described at some point
23 was flooded out?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And I'm going to show you Government Exhibit 12

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1471

1 that's already in evidence, is that the river close to your
2 house at River Street?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Shannon, once your mom and you moved to River
5 Street, did your mom touch you the way you were describing
6 earlier while you were living at River Street?

7 A Yes.

8 Q At the house?

9 A Yes, and at George's.

10 Q I'm sorry?

11 A And at George's.

12 Q Okay. I'm going to talk a little bit about that.
13 But while you and she were living at River Street at your
14 house, would she touch you in the way that you were
15 describing earlier?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And when this occurred, when this happened, would
18 you and your mom both have your clothes off?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Where in the house at River Street would your mom
21 do this touching to you?

22 A In her bedroom.

23 Q And you described for us earlier about what kind of
24 touching happened at Pine Street. What kind of touching
25 happened at River Street, was it the same or different or how

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1472

1 would you describe it?

2 A It was the same.

3 Q Okay. At River Street, did she do any touching
4 with you in the bathroom or was it always in her bedroom?

5 A The most I can remember was always in the bedroom.

6 Q Okay. Now, while you're living at River Street,
7 did your mom -- let me ask you: Can you describe the
8 touching that happened in the bedroom?

9 A She would touch my vagina. She'd have me touch
10 her's. She would kiss me and I'd have to kiss her back and I
11 would have to touch her breasts.

12 Q Okay. At River Street, was there anything that
13 your mom ever inserted into your vagina while you were at
14 River Street?

15 A No.

16 Q Okay. Anything that she asked you to insert into
17 her vagina?

18 A No.

19 Q Okay. Now, when were you at River Street, how
20 would you describe how it came to be that you and your mom
21 would go to the Lang house?

22 A My mom had us go up like every weekend.

23 Q Okay. Can you describe how did -- how did your mom
24 get along with George?

25 A For the most part well.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1473

1 Q Okay. How about your mom and Renee, how did they
2 get along?

3 A They foughted -- they fought sometimes and they got
4 along overall all right, I guess.

5 Q Not as well as your mom and George?

6 A No.

7 Q When you started to go to George and Renee's house,
8 would you and your mom sometimes stay overnight over the
9 weekends?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And did you know whose idea it was for you guys to
12 stay overnight?

13 A I'm not quite sure.

14 Q Okay. And when you and your mom stayed overnight
15 at George and Renee's, where in the house would you -- would
16 you stay or which part would you sleep in?

17 A In the back, they have a bedroom with two beds.
18 And I'd sleep in the twin size and my mom would sleep in
19 the -- I believe it was a full size.

20 Q Okay. Same bedroom?

21 A Yeah.

22 Q And in relation to the bedroom that you and your
23 mom stayed in, where was George and Renee's bedroom in that
24 trailer?

25 A Exactly at the other end of the house.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1474

1 Q Okay. And then the living room, the picture that
2 we saw, where was the living room in relation to the two
3 bedrooms on the opposite ends?

4 A There was George and Renee's bedroom and then the
5 kitchen and then the living room and then a small hallway and
6 then where me and my mom slept.

7 Q Okay. And when you would stay overnight at George
8 and Renee's house, it was you and your mom. Would anybody
9 else stay over?

10 A No.

11 Q Okay. And how would you describe how often it was
12 that you and your mom would go to the Lang house and stay for
13 a night or a couple of nights on a weekend?

14 A It would be on the weekend or when we had no school
15 we'd be up there.

16 Q Okay. On, let's say in any given month, would it
17 be every weekend, every weekend, every third? How would you
18 describe it?

19 A It was like every weekend.

20 Q Okay. And how would you get to the Lang house from
21 your River Street house?

22 A George would pick us up in the car or that truck
23 thingy.

24 Q Or the what?

25 A The truck thingy that was in the picture.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1475

1 Q The truck vehicle?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q Okay. You said thingy.

4 A Sorry.

5 Q Okay. Now, did your mom drive?

6 A No.

7 Q Okay. Did she have a car that you remember?

8 A Not that I remember.

9 Q Okay. And so from the River Street to the Lang
10 house, George would come and pick you guys up and take you up
11 there?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Did George ever drive you or your mom anywhere else
14 while you were living at River Street?

15 A He'd take my mom shopping sometimes. I remember
16 one time we went up to, I believe it was PA where he got gas
17 and cigarettes I believe.

18 Q Okay. So he'd take your mom shopping from time to
19 time?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Now, when you were living at River Street, did you
22 know whether your mom had internet service on the computer or
23 the computers that we saw in the picture?

24 A Yes.

25 Q How do you know that?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1476

1 A Because I used to go on chat rooms and I had an
2 e-mail account.

3 Q Okay. And the computer that we saw in Government
4 Exhibit number 90, the computer in George Lang's living room,
5 okay, do you know if that computer had internet service?

6 A Yes.

7 Q How do you know that?

8 A Because George would bring up pictures of
9 pornography and sometimes he'd look at lottery numbers for
10 Renee.

11 Q Okay. So this was things you saw while you were at
12 the Lang residence?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Now, Shannon, when you and your mom started to go
15 to George's house, did there come a point in time when you
16 asked your mom whether something was going on between her and
17 George?

18 A Yes.

19 Q What did you ask her?

20 A I asked her if her and George were having sex.

21 Q Why did you ask her that?

22 A Because I had seen a couple e-mails and at night,
23 like on the weekends sometimes I would hear them.

24 Q All right. So would you hear them when you were at
25 the Lang house?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1477

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. Now when you would hear them you were where
3 in the Lang house?

4 A I was in the bedroom where I slept.

5 Q Okay. And where would George and your mother be?

6 A In the living room.

7 Q Now, now where would Renee be?

8 A She would be sleeping in her bedroom.

9 Q Okay. Now, what did you say to your mom or what
10 did you ask her and what did she say to you?

11 A I asked her like plane out, what are you doing with
12 George, are you guys having sex and she's like no, no. And
13 she said it's just the TV. We're not doing anything. And
14 that's what she said.

15 Q Okay. And at some point after you asked her that,
16 did you see something?

17 A Yes. I walked out one time and they were having
18 sex.

19 Q Okay. And where were they when they were having
20 sex?

21 A In the living room.

22 Q Okay. Now, when you found your mom and George
23 having sex, was George sick at this point yet?

24 A I don't believe so.

25 Q Okay. And when you say you saw them having sex,

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1478

1 what did you see? Can you describe what it is that you saw?

2 A George's penis would be in my mom's vagina.

3 Q All right. And this was in the living room, which
4 part of the living room were they in?

5 A On the couch.

6 Q Okay. And you believe this occurs before George is
7 sick?

8 A I believe so, yes.

9 Q Did your mom see you when you saw them?

10 A I believe she did because I ran back to my bedroom,
11 the bedroom and she came in.

12 Q What did she say to you?

13 A She told me to come out there with them and then
14 George started kissing me and touching me and my mom would
15 kiss him and touch him and then my mom would come to me and
16 do the same.

17 Q Now, is this the first time that George touched
18 you?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And up until this point in time, had any other male
21 touched you in a sexual way or touched you in any
22 inappropriate way?

23 A No.

24 Q When this happened the night that you found them
25 having sex, did Renee come out of her bedroom at any point in

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1479

1 time?

2 A No.

3 Q What was Renee -- what was going on with Renee when
4 these things were happening? What was Renee like at this
5 time?

6 A She'd be sleeping and snoring really loud.

7 Q Okay. Did you know whether or not she had any
8 medical conditions at that time?

9 A I know she had diabetes and after she'd take meds
10 at night she fell asleep like really quick and she'd snore
11 horribly loud.

12 Q And I take it when she's sleeping and snoring she's
13 in her bedroom then?

14 A She'd fall asleep on the couch but then George
15 would keep nagging her to go to her bedroom and then finally
16 she did.

17 Q Okay. Now, the first time that George touched you,
18 was this night when you found them having sex and then your
19 mom brought you to the living room?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Did your mom, did your mom or George say anything
22 to you?

23 A They just started touching me.

24 Q Did you know -- I'm just asking you -- did you know
25 whether or not George knew anything about your mom having

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1480

1 touched you while you're living at River Street and Pine
2 Street?

3 MISS PEEBLES: Objection. He's asking for
4 George Lang's state of mind.

5 THE COURT: Sustained.

6 Q Shannon, did your mother or George ever say
7 anything to you as to whether or not George knew anything
8 about what your mother was doing to you?

9 MISS PEEBLES: Objection.

10 THE COURT: Something that Miss O'Connor told
11 her daughter would be an admission.

12 MISS PEEBLES: He said George Lang first. It
13 was a compound question.

14 MR. LOVRIC: Let me rephrase it, Judge.

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 BY MR. LOVRIC:

17 Q Did your mom ever tell you whether or not she told
18 George what she was doing to you?

19 A No.

20 Q Was there anything that you observed or heard to
21 lead you to believe whether or not George knew anything?

22 MISS PEEBLES: Objection.

23 THE COURT: She can tell us what she observed
24 or saw or heard, but not about Mr. Lang's state of mind.

25 Q Do you understand my question, Shannon?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1481

1 A Not now.

2 Q Okay. I don't blame you. I'll go to the next
3 question. Shannon, once George and your mom touched you that
4 night, were there other occasions when your mom and George
5 would touch you?

6 A After that, yes.

7 Q How -- how would that happen? How often and how
8 would that happen that George and/or your mom would touch
9 you?

10 A Sometimes I would go to bed and after Renee fell
11 asleep and went in her bedroom my mom would come and get me
12 and that would happen, stuff would happen and then sometimes
13 my mom would just tell me go to bed early and she wouldn't
14 bother me at all, neither would George.

15 Q Okay. When these things happened at George's
16 house, were there ever times that George would be alone with
17 you or was your mom always there?

18 A There was times when he was alone with me.

19 Q And what kind of things did he do?

20 A He would touch me, he would make me touch him and
21 give him oral sex.

22 Q Okay. Now when you say he would have you touch
23 him, what does that mean, what would he have you do?

24 A He would have me touch his penis.

25 Q With what part of your body?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1482

1 A My hand and my mouth.

2 Q And when he would touch you, what part of the body
3 would he touch you with?

4 A Sometimes his mouth and his hands.

5 Q Okay. Did George ever have sexual intercourse with
6 you?

7 A No.

8 Q He never put his penis inside your vagina?

9 A No.

10 Q Did George at any point, other than that first
11 night, did you ever see George put his penis inside your
12 mother's vagina?

13 A After that night?

14 Q Yes.

15 A Yes.

16 Q I take it you were there and saw this happen?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Were there any times when you were at George's
19 house and it would just be you and your mom in the living
20 room or was it always that George was there if she was there?

21 A It was either George and her there or it was just
22 George.

23 Q Just George and you?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q Okay. What did you say to your mom when George

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1483

1 started to do this with her and you and him?

2 A I became very confused and I said that I was going
3 to tell and they said nobody's going to believe you anyway.

4 Q Who said that nobody's going to believe you?

5 A George and my mom.

6 Q What did you think about that?

7 A I thought that I'd be -- because a lot of people
8 knew George, a lot of people in Deposit knew George.

9 Q When you say knew them, he was friends with a lot
10 of people?

11 A I don't know if he was friends but like people knew
12 him and he knew them.

13 Q Did you think anybody would believe you?

14 A No.

15 Q When this was happening, Shannon, did you ever
16 think about running away?

17 A A couple times but I was so scared because I didn't
18 know where I was going to go because people in Deposit either
19 knew my mom or knew George and I would get in trouble for
20 running away.

21 Q So, when these things happened at George's house,
22 did you ever tell anybody when this was happening?

23 A No.

24 Q Did, you when George and your mom would have you do
25 these things with them, did you put up a fight?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1484

1 A One time I tried to stop but it didn't work. He
2 made me still give him oral sex.

3 MR. FISCHER: I'm sorry. I couldn't hear,
4 your Honor. I couldn't hear the answer.

5 (Record read back).

6 Q The things that you described, Shannon, was it --
7 when you would go to the Lang house, was this something that
8 would happen more often than not when you and your mom were
9 staying at the Lang house?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q Now, when you were at George's house with your mom,
12 did anybody ever give you alcohol to drink there?

13 A Yes.

14 Q How did that happen?

15 A One time George and Renee and my mom were drinking
16 vodka with either orange juice or cranberry juice George had
17 made one for me and I drank it and then I'd just keep
18 drinking more.

19 Q Was this something that happened on more than one
20 occasion?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And what alcoholic drinks do you remember drinking
23 at the Lang house?

24 A Wine coolers, Smirnoff's and vodka.

25 Q And who was it that made or gave you the drinks?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1485

1 A Sometimes my mom and sometimes George.

2 Q Was Renee ever present when this happened?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q What did you think about that, drinking alcohol?

5 A I don't know. I liked it.

6 Q Okay. How did it make you feel?

7 A After enough drinks I felt like -- I don't know. I
8 couldn't feel anything.

9 Q Okay. Prior to being given alcoholic drinks at
10 George's house, had you ever been given any alcohol to drink
11 at River Street or Pine Street?

12 A At River Street I was.

13 Q Okay. What alcoholic drinks do you remember being
14 given there?

15 A Mainly wine coolers and Smirnoff's.

16 Q How did that happen?

17 A My mom would go out and get them and we'd drink
18 them together.

19 Q What did you think about when that started?

20 A I don't know.

21 Q Did you like the drinks?

22 A Yeah.

23 Q Make you feel good?

24 A M-m h-m-m.

25 Q Make you feel loopy?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1486

1 A Yeah.

2 MISS PEEBLES: Objection.

3 THE COURT: Sustained.

4 MISS PEEBLES: Leading.

5 Q Did your mother ever give you drinks at River
6 Street while she was touching you and having you touch her?

7 A Yes.

8 Q When you were at George's house and you were given
9 alcohol, did you get drinks from either George or your mom at
10 any point while or right before they would bring you out to
11 have them touch you and you touch them?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Did the alcohol -- withdrawn. Shannon, when you
14 were at George's house, did anybody ever take pictures of
15 you?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Who was it that took pictures of you?

18 A Sometimes it was George taking pictures of me and
19 my mom and sometimes it was my mom taking pictures of me and
20 George.

21 Q Now, prior to that, had your mom ever taken
22 pictures of you?

23 A No.

24 Q So while you were at River Street or Pine Street,
25 were there ever pictures taken of you that you remember?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1487

1 A No.

2 Q Okay. Pictures at George's house, what were the
3 pictures that were being taken of you?

4 A One of them was me giving George oral sex and I
5 remember one of them was me touching my mom and my mom
6 touching me and like me kissing her and George and her would
7 be touching me and George would hold out the camera and take
8 pictures.

9 Q Now, I take it when these things happened, Renee is
10 not around?

11 A No. She was sleeping.

12 Q And do you know whose camera it was?

13 A I believe it was George's.

14 Q What makes you believe that?

15 A As far as I know my mom didn't have a camera, like
16 digital camera.

17 Q Okay. You had never seen a camera at your mom's
18 house?

19 A Like the throw-away cameras but not the camera that
20 they used.

21 Q Okay. So you had your seen your mom with those
22 disposable cameras?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q Was that the kind of camera that was used?

25 A No.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1488

1 Q Okay. Did the camera that was used at George's
2 house, it was more like a regular real camera?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q Did George or your mom ever show you any pictures
5 that they took of you performing some type of a sexual act?

6 A A couple times they did.

7 Q Okay. And how did you see these pictures?

8 A George would call me over and they'd be on his
9 computer.

10 Q Okay. Now, do you know how they got onto his
11 computer?

12 A The camera had a wire where you could hook it up to
13 the computer.

14 Q Okay. And the pictures that you saw, were they
15 actual pictures of you?

16 A Yes. And there was other pictures of other people.

17 Q Okay. When you say other people, what do you mean
18 by other people?

19 A Like on the internet there would be people having
20 sex and like pornography.

21 Q Okay. How did you come to see those other kinds of
22 pictures, how did that happen?

23 A George had me look at them and told me that I
24 should be more like the girls in the picture.

25 Q Were they doing things in the picture, were there

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1489

1 certain kinds of sexual acts that was being done?

2 A Yes.

3 Q The pictures that you saw, other than the pictures
4 of yourself, the other pictures that you saw, were they --
5 how old were the people in the pictures approximately that
6 you're looking at?

7 A Most of them were kind of like -- like not old
8 people but like over 21.

9 Q Okay. So they were adult pictures?

10 A Yeah, and there was some younger girls.

11 Q Okay. Was your mom ever around when George was
12 showing you these pictures?

13 A A couple of times she was.

14 Q Now, when you were at George's house, did you ever
15 see Renee use the computer?

16 A No.

17 Q Do you know, do you know whether or not she could
18 even use a computer?

19 A I -- I don't think she could.

20 Q Okay. When you were at George's house, was your
21 mom allowed to use George's computer?

22 A No. He was the only one on it, like allowed on it.

23 Q Was he pretty protective about his computer?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Now, Shannon, when you were at 11 River Street, did

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1490

1 you know whether or not George and your mom sent anything
2 back to each other, back and forth?

3 A They would send pictures back and forth of like --
4 like grownups having sex or they'd write e-mails to each
5 other about it.

6 Q Now, how do you know that?

7 A Because one time I went to get on the computer to
8 get on my e-mail account and there was like a letter -- like
9 an e-mail that wasn't clicked off and I read it.

10 Q Okay. Who's the e-mail from?

11 A George.

12 Q And who was it sent to?

13 A My mom.

14 Q And what kind of stuff was in the e-mail?

15 A Saying that my mom was really good at having sex
16 with him and that -- I think that was it. All I can remember
17 is that he said my mom was good at having sex with him and he
18 couldn't wait for it again.

19 Q He couldn't what?

20 A Wait for it again.

21 Q This is George telling your mom this in that
22 e-mail?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Did you ever see any pictures on your mom's
25 computer at River Street?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1491

1 A Yes.

2 Q What kind of pictures did you see?

3 A Naked girls on men touching each other, were having
4 intercourse.

5 Q Now, Shannon, when these things were happening at
6 George's house, did you know whether or not, from your
7 observations, did you know whether or not Renee knew anything
8 about what was going on?

9 MISS PEEBLES: Objection.

10 MR. LOVRIC: I'm asking for her observations.

11 MISS PEEBLES: He's asking for state of mind
12 of Renee.

13 THE COURT: She can tell us what she observed
14 or didn't observe, what she did observe but not a conclusion
15 of what would be in Miss Lang's mind or what she thought,
16 knew.

17 THE WITNESS: I'm confused now.

18 BY MR. LOVRIC:

19 Q Okay. I guess, Shannon, I'm asking you whether or
20 not from what you saw, observed and as things happened, do
21 you know whether or not Renee knew anything about what was
22 going on?

23 A No.

24 Q Okay. Did you ever see Renee around when these
25 things were being done in the living room between you George

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1492

1 and/or your mom?

2 A No.

3 Q Now, Shannon, did you know anything about a sex toy
4 called Georgie boy?

5 A Yes.

6 Q How did you learn about that?

7 A My mom had gotten it for Christmas when I got a
8 sled and I caught her once using it.

9 Q Okay. Now, who gave her that sex toy?

10 A I believe George.

11 Q Okay. What makes you believe that or why do you
12 think that?

13 A Because it was named Georgie boy and it was a
14 Christmas present but I honestly don't know who it actually
15 came from, either George or Renee.

16 Q Shannon, had you ever seen a sex toy like that
17 before then?

18 A No.

19 Q Did you know what it was?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q How did you know what it was or how did you learn
22 what it was?

23 A Because it looked like a penis.

24 Q Okay. And when you say you caught your mom using
25 it, what happened?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1493

1 A I was -- okay. There was a door from my mom's
2 bedroom to my bedroom and I had opened it once to ask her a
3 question but I don't remember the question and she was using
4 it and she told me to shut the door.

5 Q Okay. What did you see her doing with it?

6 A She had it in her vagina.

7 Q Now, how did you know it was the name for this toy,
8 how did you know it was Georgie boy?

9 A Because it got brought up when George and my mom
10 and -- were touching me and they -- my mom had brought it out
11 and --

12 MR. FISCHER: I'm sorry, I'm having such a
13 hard time hearing the testimony.

14 THE WITNESS: Can I take a break?

15 THE COURT: Do you want that last answer read
16 back?

17 (Record read back).

18 MR. LOVRIC: Can we just take a short break,
19 Judge.

20 THE COURT: Sure. Okay. Ladies and
21 gentlemen, we'll stand aside for a few moments.

22 (Short break taken).

23 (Jury present).

24 THE COURT: All right, Mr. Lovric.

25 BY MR. LOVRIC:

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1494

1 Q Shannon, just make sure you pull that microphone so
2 we can all hear you, okay?

3 A Okay.

4 Q You've got to speak up?

5 A Okay.

6 Q Shannon, while your mom and you were going and
7 visiting George's house on weekends, did you ever come to
8 know anything about an adoption plan?

9 A Yes.

10 Q How did you learn about that?

11 A My mom had asked me once if she thought it would be
12 okay like if we changed our last name and at first I was like
13 yeah, it would be cool to have a different name and then as I
14 thought about it, I said that I didn't want to change my name
15 because it was my father's last name.

16 Q Okay. And what did she say as far as this
17 adoption, what was going to happen or what did you believe
18 was going to happen?

19 A She went to the lawyer and asked if she could have
20 her name changed and I don't know what happened after that.

21 Q Okay. Do you know whose idea this was, did she
22 ever tell you that?

23 A No.

24 Q Okay. Did this happen, did this ever come to be
25 that you and she changed your last names?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1495

1 A No.

2 Q Did you know what last name she was talking about?

3 A She wanted her last name changed to Lang and her
4 first name like Patricia, I believe.

5 Q Why was she telling you she was going to change her
6 first name?

7 A I don't know.

8 Q Okay. Do you know anything more about this
9 adoption talk or not?

10 A It didn't work because we didn't change our name.

11 Q Okay. Do you know why it didn't work?

12 A No.

13 Q Okay. Shannon, before the break we talked about
14 things that happened at George's house. During the times
15 that those things happened that you described, other than
16 George, your mom and you, was anybody else ever present or
17 did anybody else ever interrupt what you described happening
18 in that living room?

19 A No.

20 Q Now, the pictures that were taken, you described
21 for us how you saw them and where you saw them. Do you know
22 whatever happened to those?

23 A No.

24 Q Did anybody ever tell you what happened to them?

25 A No. All I knew they were on the computer.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1496

1 Q When you saw them?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. And beyond that, do you have any knowledge
4 as to where they went or where they were put after that?

5 A No.

6 Q Now, Shannon, at some point after the things that
7 you described occurred, do you recall or do you remember
8 George becoming or being diagnosed with some kind of a
9 disease?

10 A After times, yeah, he had cancer.

11 Q How did you know that?

12 A I found out, I believe, when he said that he was
13 going to get a shunt, I believe it's called, in his chest so
14 when he had to go to the hospital they wouldn't have to poke
15 his arms, they would just shove needles into whatever it's
16 called.

17 Q So he was having something placed under his skin?

18 A Yes.

19 Q After George -- after you learned that George was
20 sick, the things that you described, did they continue or did
21 they stop after you learned that he was sick?

22 A They continued but not as much because he would be
23 really tired after his treatment and he'd fall asleep.

24 Q Okay. So, the things you described earlier did not
25 happen as often?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1497

1 A Yes.

2 Q Do you remember the flood of 2006?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. Now, did you and your mom continue to go to
5 the George and Renee Lang house all the way up to the flood?

6 A No. We stopped going after a big fight that they
7 had. It was, I believe, before that Christmas because I
8 believe I had Christmas at home that year.

9 Q Okay. So the Christmas right before the flood you
10 believe you had where?

11 A At 11 River Street.

12 Q Okay. And the prior Christmas, where do you recall
13 that Christmas taking place?

14 A I believe at George and Renee's house.

15 Q Okay. And to the best of your memory, about when
16 do you believe this fight happened or something happened?

17 A I think a little bit before Christmas because my
18 mom had sold my bb gun, my pellet gun that George and her
19 bought.

20 Q Why did she sell it, why did she get rid of?

21 A Because if we weren't going up there no more then
22 there was no place in town to shoot it and I didn't want it.

23 Q So you believe it was somewhere around Christmas
24 before the flood?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1498

1 Q Okay. And once this fight or argument happened,
2 then did you and your mom ever go to George's house again?

3 A I don't believe after that, no.

4 Q Okay. Do you know what the fight or the argument
5 was about?

6 A No.

7 Q Did your mom ever say anything to you or tell you?

8 A I don't believe so but I don't remember.

9 Q Okay. But as you sit here right now you don't know
10 what it was about?

11 A No.

12 Q And that was approximately prior to the June 2006
13 flood then, that Christmas time before then, December of 2005
14 would be the date?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Now, the flood in 2006, do you remember that event?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Pretty scary?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Where did you and your mom go when the flood
21 started to happen?

22 A When we started seeing that the water was rising,
23 we went to my mom's friend, Pat Nicole's house, and we stayed
24 there about until like 3 in the morning and then the water
25 was getting in their house and they lived pretty far from the

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1499

1 river and we were taken on rescue boats to go to the
2 firehouse and then the water started coming to the firehouse,
3 so we went to the Assembly of God church and stayed for like
4 two or three nights.

5 Q Okay. And then some time after staying at the
6 shelter at the church, did you and your mom for a short
7 period of time then stay at somebody's house?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Do you remember who that was?

10 A Delores' house.

11 Q How did you know Delores?

12 A She had gone to our church.

13 Q Okay. Somebody you knew from the church?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And do you remember about how long it was that you
16 stayed, you and your mom, at Delores' house?

17 A I would say around a month.

18 Q Okay. And at some point in time did your mom find
19 another apartment?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. Where do you remember her finding a place to
22 live?

23 A In Norwich.

24 Q Okay. Had you ever lived in Norwich before this
25 time?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1500

1 A No.

2 Q Okay. Now, when your mom and you lived in -- at
3 River Street, do you remember the landlord of River Street?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Okay. Do you remember the person's name?

6 A Sharon write.

7 Q Had you ever met her?

8 A Yeah.

9 Q Okay. Were you ever around when your mom would
10 talk to Sharon about the rent at River Street?

11 A Sometimes, mainly Sharon came over to talk about
12 everything.

13 Q About everything?

14 A She talked a lot.

15 Q Okay. I don't want to get into the other stuff
16 that she might have been talking about but did you ever hear
17 Sharon talk to your mom about rent or your mom talk to Sharon
18 about rent?

19 A Yes, a couple of times.

20 Q Okay. What do you recall being discussed about the
21 rent?

22 A One time like that I can remember my mom I think
23 owed rent or something and Sharon came in and it was at
24 nighttime and she wouldn't get off our property or like she
25 just kept knocking on the door and sitting out on -- outside

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1501

1 the window so the police were called and she -- they said she
2 had to get off the property because we were staying there and
3 we went up to George's and Renee's house that night.

4 Q Okay. Did you know whether or not your mom owed
5 Sharon rent money?

6 A A couple of times she did.

7 Q Okay. How did you know this?

8 A Because George would try to help her get the bills
9 straightened out, like the rent and stuff, but we would blow
10 money on other stuff and Sharon would come down saying we
11 owed her money and we should get it to her soon so we don't
12 get evicted.

13 Q Okay. Now, you said that you would blow money or
14 spend money, what do you mean by that?

15 A Like my mom would buy me stuff like clothes and
16 stuff, like toys I didn't need and we got pets and we had to
17 feed the pets so we'd use the money to get pet food or my mom
18 used it to get wine coolers or buy vodka for George and
19 Renee's house.

20 Q Okay. Now, were you aware or did you know that
21 your mom was -- didn't have enough money around at times?

22 A Yeah.

23 Q Were these things that you learned or heard from
24 her or how did you learn about this?

25 A I would be around when either George was talking to

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1502

1 her about rent or Sharon would be there. That's how I found
2 out.

3 Q Now, how did your mom find the apartment in
4 Norwich, do you know?

5 A We were sitting in a diner in Sidney and she was
6 looking through the newspaper and she found the ad for it.

7 Q Okay. Do you remember the first time you went to
8 the apartment in Norwich?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Who went there?

11 A The first time we went was my mom, me and Delores
12 and the Pipers showed us the house.

13 Q Okay. Now, who were the Pipers?

14 A They lived upstairs at 45 Fair Street.

15 Q Okay. The Pipers, more than one person living
16 there?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. How were they related, the Pipers?

19 A They were married.

20 Q Young, middle aged?

21 A Old.

22 Q How would you describe them?

23 A I don't know. They were old like, at least around
24 60.

25 Q Okay.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1503

1 A Seventy. I don't know.

2 Q Okay. When you and your mom and Delores looked at
3 the apartment, where in the house was the apartment?

4 A Downstairs.

5 Q Okay. And do you know whether or not your mom
6 rented that apartment?

7 A We rented it.

8 Q How did you know that?

9 A Because we moved in there.

10 Q Okay. Now, when you first went to see the
11 apartment, did you know who owned it?

12 A I didn't know him. My mom had called him on the
13 phone when we were going up to see it the first time.

14 Q Okay. And did you and your mom then soon after
15 move into that apartment?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Did you have a lot of belongings to move in?

18 A No.

19 Q Most of the things were lost in the flood?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Now, when was the first time that you met Dean
22 Sacco?

23 A When we brought up stuff, like when we were moving
24 in.

25 Q Okay. And how did you first meet him?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1504

1 A He was in the -- like in the apartment I think
2 having my mom sign papers or something.

3 Q Okay. Did you talk to Dean?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Okay. What kind of things did he say to you?

6 A I don't remember.

7 Q Okay. Was it anything important? You and he just
8 kind of talked?

9 A I think we just talked.

10 Q Did you know where he was from?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. Where was he from?

13 A New Jersey.

14 Q Okay. How did you know that?

15 A Because he had told us.

16 Q I'm sorry?

17 A He had told us.

18 Q Okay. And do you know who it was that owned that
19 house?

20 A Dean.

21 Q Okay. How did you know that?

22 A Because he was the landlord.

23 Q Okay. Now, when your mom talked with Dean that
24 first time you described, did you know what they were talking
25 about or did you know what she was signing or anything like

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1505

1 that?

2 A No.

3 Q Okay. Shannon, when you and your mom were moving
4 to Norwich, okay, and after you got to Norwich, did you have
5 any conversations with your mom about how things were going
6 to be when you got to Norwich or moved in?

7 A Yeah. My mom said that they were going to be
8 different and better.

9 MR. FISCHER: I'm sorry. I just can't hear.

10 THE COURT: Do you want to read that back for
11 us, please?

12 (Record read back).

13 Q Shannon, what did you think of that, what did you
14 think that meant in your mind?

15 A I thought that things were going to stop and that
16 me and my mom would have a better relationship and things
17 would be normal again and good.

18 Q Okay. So, when you say you thought things were
19 going to stop, what things did you think were going to stop?

20 A Like the touching.

21 Q Okay. The things you described for us earlier?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And what did you think about moving to the Norwich
24 area?

25 A I thought it was cool because it was a lot bigger

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1506

1 than Deposit and there was tons of stores and -- I don't
2 know. It was really cool.

3 Q Okay. And when you moved into Norwich, did your
4 mom get you any kind of a pet?

5 A Yeah, we got my dog Buddy.

6 Q Okay. And now did you have a dog when you were
7 living at River Street?

8 A We had a dog for like a couple of weeks named
9 Snowball but she was barking and we had to give her away.

10 Q Okay. And where did you get Buddy from?

11 A The pet store in Binghamton, like around Wal-Mart
12 plaza or something.

13 Q Okay. Do you remember the name of the pet store or
14 no?

15 A I believe it was Pet Depot.

16 Q Okay. Did you actually go when you guys bought
17 Buddy?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. Is it the dog you wanted?

20 A Yeah. I got to pick him out.

21 Q Okay. And I take it your mom paid for him?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And then did Buddy stay and live with you guys
24 while you were at the Norwich house while you lived there?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1507

1 Q Now, Shannon, when you moved into Norwich, did
2 something happen between you and Dean when you moved in?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. What was it that happened?

5 A He had sex with me on the couch.

6 Q Okay. Now, prior to Dean Sacco having sex with
7 you, had anyone else had sexual intercourse with you prior to
8 that?

9 A No.

10 Q George?

11 A No.

12 Q George only did the things you described, the
13 various acts?

14 A Yes.

15 Q What happened? How did Dean have sex with you on
16 the couch?

17 A He said that he had to go back to New Jersey and --
18 but he had to come back so he wasn't going to go. He said
19 I'll just sleep in my car outside and my mom said no, no, you
20 can sleep in our house and he slept in my mom's bedroom, my
21 mom slept in my bedroom and I slept on the couch.

22 Q And then what happened?

23 A It was during the night and I woke up to Dean
24 kissing me and my clothes were off.

25 Q When you woke up, were your clothes already off

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1508

1 when you were awakened?

2 A Yep.

3 Q Did you have clothes on when you went to bed?

4 A Yeah. I had shorts and a tank top.

5 Q Okay. And what happened?

6 A He started kissing me and then he put his penis in
7 my vagina.

8 Q Okay. And was he on top of you at that point?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And what were you thinking?

11 A I was very, very scared and tears were rolling down
12 my face and -- but I was afraid to like say anything. He
13 told me to be quiet.

14 Q Okay. And did he have sexual intercourse with you?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Do you know whether or not he ejaculated inside
17 you?

18 A I'm not sure.

19 Q Do you know whether or not he had any condom on on
20 that date?

21 A I believe he did.

22 Q What makes you believe that?

23 A Because I'm pretty sure I saw it.

24 Q Okay. Who, aside from Dean, was anybody else in
25 the living room at that time?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1509

1 A No.

2 Q Okay. Did your mother ever walk in when that
3 happened?

4 A Not that time, no.

5 Q And what happened when Dean was done?

6 A He put his clothes back on and told me to get
7 dressed and he went -- he went somewhere. I stayed on the
8 couch and cried in my pillow.

9 Q Okay. Now, did you later that morning, did you say
10 anything to your mother about that?

11 A No.

12 Q Did she say anything to you as far as anything
13 about that?

14 A No.

15 Q Do you know or not whether or not she even knew
16 anything about that?

17 A I don't know. I believe not.

18 Q Okay. When that happened, after Dean had sexual
19 intercourse with you, what were you thinking after this
20 happened to you?

21 A I was scared to death like. I was hurt physically
22 and mentally and I was scared.

23 Q Okay. Did you say anything to your mother about
24 that?

25 A No.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1510

1 Q Now, after this happens, this is at Norwich street?

2 A Yes.

3 Q In Norwich at 45 Fair Street?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Now, had you started school in the Norwich area at
6 that time?

7 A No. It was August.

8 Q Okay. Did things start to happen in your mind to
9 cause you to start to hurt yourself?

10 A I became very angry and wondering why stuff was
11 going on and I couldn't take it anymore.

12 Q Okay. What was it that you started to do?

13 A At camp -- well, before I went to camp I took my
14 mom's medicine and when I got to camp I wasn't feeling good
15 so I told them, because I was getting scared and I was like I
16 don't want to die anymore, and I went to the hospital.

17 Q Okay. Do you know what kind of medicine you took?

18 A I don't remember.

19 Q Okay. Some kind of medication?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And did you spend some time at the hospital?

22 A They transferred me to Syracuse hospital and I
23 stayed there for like four to five days.

24 Q Okay. And what was going through your mind at the
25 time that you did this and after Dean had sexual intercourse

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1511

1 with you?

2 A I was mad that it didn't work, that I wasn't dead
3 but then I was also happy because I saw that the camp
4 counselors really cared and that I had people that did care
5 around me.

6 Q How did you feel about your mom at that point in
7 time?

8 A I was scared of what she was going to think
9 about -- like what I did. I was afraid that she was going to
10 be mad.

11 Q Mad at you?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q Why?

14 A Because who wants their kid trying to kill
15 themselves.

16 Q Now, at that point in time, you didn't say anything
17 to mom about what Dean had done?

18 A No.

19 Q How come you didn't say anything to her?

20 A Because I was scared and I was just getting over
21 that I had just tried killing myself, so I was focused on
22 trying to get over that.

23 Q Okay. When you were in the hospital up in
24 Syracuse, do you remember whether or not you talked to your
25 mom at all while you were in the hospital?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1512

1 A I believe I did.

2 Q Okay. What was that like?

3 A I think -- I was scared but I'm pretty sure it went
4 all right. After a certain time in the day, like the nurses
5 had shut off my phone calls so I think she called like once
6 or twice.

7 Q Okay. During that point in time when you're in the
8 hospital, were you mad at your mom at all?

9 A I wasn't so mad as much as I was hurt.

10 Q And why, what was it that made you feel hurt as far
11 as your mom was concerned?

12 A Because of everything that she had put me through
13 and I felt like our relationship had just been a total waste.

14 Q Now, do you remember coming home from the hospital?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And what happened once you got home from the
17 hospital? What was the relationship between you and your mom
18 like?

19 A Like for one or two days it was really good, my mom
20 was really supportive and I went back to Y camp. Then a
21 couple days after I got home me and my mom were walking down
22 to go swimming at the YMCA and she had started getting angry
23 and said why did I do that? And she was upset that I had
24 tried killing myself.

25 Q Okay. Did you tell her why?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1513

1 A No.

2 Q Okay. Now, did you and your mom have any arguments
3 or fights after you came home from the hospital?

4 A Yeah, couple times. If I wouldn't like wake up and
5 take Buddy outside to go to the bathroom or if I wouldn't
6 like help do one of the chores, I'd stay on the couch and
7 watch TV or something.

8 Q Okay. Shannon, did you start to cut yourself?

9 A I had cut myself when my mom went to the hospital
10 with some kind of kidney stone problem and I was home alone
11 and I knew that Dean was coming up the next day and I was
12 really scared and I just wanted to get away from the pain so
13 I took a knife and started cutting myself.

14 Q Now, when your mom went to the hospital for this
15 kidney stone situation, did she tell you where you should
16 stay or what you should do?

17 A She told me that the Pipers could babysit me and in
18 my mind I was like I'm old enough and I don't want those
19 people watching me.

20 Q How did you know that Dean was going to be coming
21 around?

22 A Because he had called or something, said he was
23 coming up.

24 Q Okay. Now, this is after Dean had had sexual
25 intercourse with you on that night that you described?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1514

1 A Yes.

2 Q What happened when your mom was in the hospital and
3 Dean was coming up, what did you do?

4 A I had cut myself that night and I fell asleep on
5 the couch and when I woke up I went to Y camp because I'd
6 rather not stay home and at Y camp they're like what's wrong
7 with your arm and I was like I fell into a pricker bush and
8 they're like, yeah, that's really a pricker bush and I cut my
9 leg too and they had called up DSS and told them that it
10 looked like I had cut myself. So, two of the social workers
11 came up and they asked me what I did to my arm and I said I
12 fell into a pricker bush riding my bike. They're like we
13 went to your house and there's no pricker bush and I broke
14 down, I was like I cut myself.

15 Q So, you eventually told them what happened?

16 A Yes.

17 Q At this time your mom is still in the hospital?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And did you then, after DSS became involved, did
20 you end up going to live with anybody else?

21 A Yeah. I went to go stay with Renee.

22 Q Renee Lang?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Now, at this point in time, Shannon, did you know
25 whether or not George Lang was alive or not alive?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1515

1 A I knew he was dead.

2 Q Okay. How did you know that?

3 A Because when we went to go visit, when we went to
4 go look for houses in Sidney and we found the one in Norwich
5 and it was his funeral day and we didn't go.

6 Q Okay. And what did you think about going to live
7 and stay with Renee?

8 A I was kind of like, I told them I didn't want to go
9 because she sleeps a lot and she's old like. We were out in
10 the middle of nowhere but then they said if I went there I
11 could still go to Y camp, that my case worker Naomi could
12 pick me up on her way to Norwich.

13 Q And you ended up going to live -- stay at Renee's
14 house?

15 A Yes.

16 Q How did that work out when you first got there?

17 A It was all right. I kept to myself. I stayed in
18 the bedroom.

19 Q Okay. Did you and she get along?

20 A For the most part, yeah. She seemed like she
21 really cared and she tried her best to make me comfortable
22 and tried doing stuff, like she took me over to her
23 daughter's house and let me play with kids. Tried helping me
24 the best she could.

25 Q Okay. And when you were staying with Renee, was it

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1516

1 just you and her at her house?

2 A Yeah. And the dogs.

3 Q Okay. Her dogs?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Do you know where Buddy was, your dog at that
6 point?

7 A I had taken him to live with me at Renee's but it
8 didn't quite work out because I think it was Lucy or one of
9 the other dogs was -- my dog was tiny, her dogs were huge and
10 they would fight and Buddy would pee all over the carpet and
11 stuff.

12 Q Okay. So what happened to Buddy?

13 A When my mom got out of the hospital Naomi took
14 Buddy back to her.

15 Q Okay. Now, when your mom got out of the hospital
16 and you were living at Renee's, would you ever talk to your
17 mom?

18 A Yeah. After a while being there, I started talking
19 to her on the phone.

20 Q Okay. Were there times when you would see her or
21 that you guys would get together for visitation?

22 A I don't remember exactly when but I did visit her.

23 Q Okay. And how did that go?

24 A The visits were really good. Me and my mom were
25 getting along great. We cried a couple of times and said

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1517

1 that things are going to get better and I love you and I'd go
2 back, and eventually I went back to live with her.

3 Q Okay. Did you think things were going to be
4 different and better?

5 A In my mind I prayed and I honestly believed that
6 they were going to get better. She was going to try her
7 hardest.

8 Q Now, at some point, Shannon, when you were living
9 with Renee, do you recall being on Renee Lang's daughter's
10 computer --

11 A Yes.

12 Q -- and looking at certain kinds of web sites?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. What web sites or what kind of web sites do
15 you remember looking at?

16 A Teen pregnancy and porn sites.

17 Q Why were you looking at teen pregnancy sites?

18 A Because I had the feeling in the back of my head,
19 because my period was late and I didn't know if, like, if the
20 condom ripped or something, so I was worried that I had
21 become pregnant and I wanted to see what I could do.

22 Q Okay. So this is the sexual intercourse that Dean
23 had with you?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And now at that stage in your life, Shannon, you

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1518

1 already had your period?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Do you recall when it was going back that you first
4 got your period?

5 A I think it was my second year of fifth grade, like
6 a week before school.

7 Q Okay. You went to fifth grade twice?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. Why was that from your recollection?

10 A Because the first year of fifth grade I had missed
11 so much school and my mom and my teachers thought it would be
12 best for me to go again and get more information so my grades
13 could be even higher.

14 Q So, it was -- about how old would you say you were
15 when you first got your period?

16 A Eleven. Yeah, probably 11.

17 Q Okay. So, you went on these sites. Where was it
18 that you went on these sites?

19 A At her daughter's house, Linda Huzinger's.

20 Q That's whose daughter?

21 A Renee's daughter.

22 Q Did you really think you might be pregnant?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q Okay. And then you looked at some other sites?

25 A Yeah.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1519

1 Q Okay. Why were you looking at other sites?

2 A Because I wanted Linda or Renee to come down and be
3 like what's wrong, why are you doing this but instead of
4 asking me what was wrong, they just got mad at me and yelled
5 at me and took away my homecoming dance.

6 Q You were hoping that somebody would pry?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Try to get you to talk about some stuff?

9 MR. FISCHER: Your Honor, I have a leading
10 objection.

11 THE COURT: Sustained.

12 Q Shannon, did anybody ever pry into and ask you
13 questions about these sites?

14 A One of my visits to see my mom, Naomi had asked me
15 is everything all right? And I got so scared I was like,
16 yeah, everything's fine. She's like anything happen? I was
17 like no, no, everything's fine.

18 Q Now, Shannon, did you end up eventually going back
19 to live with your mom at 45 Fair Street?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And prior to you going back to 45 Fair Street, did
22 you talk to your mom about things that she would have for you
23 when you came back home?

24 A Well, I saw them on my one of my visits. She had
25 gotten me the room set I wanted. It was -- had tires on -- I

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1520

1 think it was snow tires and some Indian stuff.

2 Q Okay. So she had done things in your room?

3 A Yeah. Made it really cool.

4 Q Okay. What did you think about that?

5 A I thought it was awesome. I was pretty happy that
6 I had gotten stuff and that my room was nicer.

7 Q Were you looking forward to going back to 45 Fair
8 Street?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q How come?

11 A Because I had really missed my mom and I just
12 wanted to be home again, at least where I could be in Norwich
13 and could start school where I was supposed to start school.

14 Q Okay. Shannon, at this point in time, right before
15 you go back to your mom, you still wanted to be with your
16 mom?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Even though those things that you described she did
19 to you?

20 A Yes.

21 Q How come?

22 A Because I loved her.

23 Q Shannon, do you remember just before you went back
24 to live with your mom being in Family Court? Let me ask you,
25 were you in Family Court I should say?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1521

1 A No.

2 Q At any point before you went to live back with your
3 mom, had you said anything to anyone about Dean Sacco?

4 A I said that he was creepy.

5 Q Okay. Who do you remember saying anything like
6 that to?

7 A I think the first person I told was my camp
8 counselor and then when they had taken me to live with Renee,
9 the two social workers, I told them there was this guy named
10 Dean and he was really creepy.

11 Q Do you ever remember talking to Renee about this or
12 saying anything to her about it?

13 A No.

14 Q Okay. Now, when you went back to live with your
15 mom, about how long do you remember being at Renee's and then
16 moving back?

17 A I remember going in like late August and going back
18 to live with my mom like around October 13 or 14.

19 Q Okay. So, we're talking about the same year that
20 you first moved into the house?

21 A Yes. Yes.

22 Q Okay. What was it like when you got back to your
23 mom's house living with her?

24 A It -- it was great. Me and my mom were having so
25 much fun together. We were hanging out, going swimming. Me

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1522

1 and mom didn't get in any fights in the beginning and then my
2 law guardian said it was only honeymoon stage. I was like
3 no, I think my mom's really better now.

4 Q You thought things were going to be just fine?

5 A Yeah.

6 Q Shannon, up until this point in time, Dean Sacco
7 had sex with you how many times up until this point in time
8 that we're now in?

9 A Right now?

10 Q The time that you come back to your mom's house.

11 A Once.

12 Q The way that you described it earlier?

13 A Once.

14 Q At some point after you came back to live with your
15 mom, did Dean Sacco have sex with you again?

16 A A couple weeks like after I had gotten home, he had
17 taken me -- well, he talked to my mom at the front door and
18 he said that I was going upstairs with him.

19 Q Okay. Did you hear what Dean and your mom were
20 talking about?

21 A No.

22 Q Did you ever find out what they were talking about?

23 A No.

24 Q And who -- how was it that you went upstairs with
25 him?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1523

1 A My mom had came and got me and I walked out and he
2 said we're going upstairs. I was like okay.

3 Q Did your mom say anything to you about that?

4 A No, she didn't say anything.

5 Q Did you go upstairs with him?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And what happened when you got upstairs?

8 A He told me that -- that I shouldn't tell and that I
9 had to do what he said.

10 Q What did he tell you to do?

11 A It was a general statement like you have to do what
12 I say.

13 Q Okay. And what did you do?

14 A I -- I sat there, I was really nervous and he
15 started kissing me and I started kissing him and he told me
16 to lie down on the -- his bed.

17 Q Okay. What did it look like?

18 A It was this foam stuff like -- I don't know what
19 its exactly called, but it was foam like things and it was on
20 the floor.

21 Q Okay. Were there any sheets on it?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And did you comply with what he said?

24 A Yes.

25 Q What happened next?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1524

1 A After he was done having intercourse with me, he
2 had this camera on a stand thingy and told me different ways
3 to pose and I said no, and he hit me.

4 Q Okay. When Dean first put you on the mattress, did
5 he actually have sexual intercourse with you?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And by that he put his penis inside your vagina?

8 A Yes.

9 Q On that occasion, do you know if he had a condom or
10 not?

11 A I'm -- I don't remember.

12 Q Do you remember or do you know whether or not he
13 ejaculated when he was inside your vagina?

14 A I don't remember.

15 Q Now, when the sexual intercourse was completed,
16 then he had this camera?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. What kind of a camera was it, can you
19 describe it to the best of your recollection?

20 A It had the lens part like zoom, you could zoom it
21 in and out. It had a back to it like where you could see the
22 picture, and it was on a stand.

23 Q Okay. And what was -- what was he doing or what
24 were you doing when he used this camera?

25 A He had me pose different ways and one of them was

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1525

1 where he had came over and started kissing me and took the
2 picture.

3 Q Okay. Did he say anything to you about why he was
4 taking pictures?

5 A No.

6 Q Did you ask him anything about that?

7 A No.

8 Q What was going through your mind when this
9 happened?

10 A I thought everything's back to the way it was,
11 except worse.

12 Q What do you mean by that?

13 A Like it brought back memories of when George and my
14 mom would take pictures, except this time I had to give him
15 intercourse, so it was worse.

16 Q Now, when Dean first had you in the apartment
17 upstairs, did you resist or did you say anything to him?

18 A I told him that -- he asked me to pose a certain
19 way and I said, no, and he hit me.

20 Q Okay. How did he hit you?

21 A With the back of his hand.

22 Q And did you then comply?

23 A Yeah. He was really strong.

24 Q Were you scared of Dean?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1526

1 Q You still scared of him today?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Why does he make you scared?

4 A Because he's big and strong.

5 Q Shannon, what happened after Dean was finished
6 taking pictures of you?

7 A He told me to go downstairs. And I got dressed and
8 I ran downstairs and I walked in the kitchen because that's
9 where the door was and my mom was walking through and I
10 looked at her and I cried and I tried telling her, I was
11 like, mom, Dean is doing stuff that's hurting me and she
12 looked at me and said it's better than being homeless and
13 walked in her bedroom.

14 Q Shannon, how often would you see Dean around the
15 property, 45 Fair Street?

16 A Like couple times a month like.

17 Q Okay. Was he always there?

18 A I'm not sure like every single weekend but he came
19 down sometimes and sometimes I'd go to my friend's house.

20 Q Okay. Did you know where he was when he wasn't at
21 the house or around the house?

22 A You mean when he was in Norwich?

23 Q Right.

24 A He said he worked out at the YMCA. I didn't know
25 where he was, other than that.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1527

1 Q Now, the upstairs apartment that you just talked
2 about and described, you had told us earlier that when you
3 guys looked at the house first that the Pipers had lived up
4 there?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. Do you know what happened to the Pipers?

7 A The lady had gotten sick or something and they had
8 moved because she couldn't really walk up the stairs anymore.

9 Q Okay. So they had moved out at some point?

10 A Yes.

11 Q When you came back from Renee's, were they still
12 living there, the Pipers, or had they moved out by the time
13 you came back?

14 A When I was -- when I first came home they were
15 still there but then they had left shortly after.

16 Q Okay. And after that, after the Pipers moved out,
17 was that apartment upstairs then vacant?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And you described this mattress, did you see any
20 other furniture around?

21 A No.

22 Q Okay. Did you really pay attention to any other
23 furniture?

24 A Not really.

25 Q Shannon, did you, after this happened that you just

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

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1 described, did you have any other conversations with your mom
2 other than the things you just described for us?

3 A No, not after that.

4 Q Okay. Okay. Now, what was going through your mind
5 after this happened with Dean on this occasion that you
6 described for us?

7 A I thought life was worthless.

8 Q Were you thinking about hurting yourself?

9 A I was thinking about it but I didn't do it.

10 Q Okay. Now, Shannon, did there come a time after
11 this event that you described, did there come a time where
12 Dean again had sexual intercourse with you?

13 A Yes.

14 Q About when do you remember the next time?

15 A On Thanksgiving.

16 Q Okay. What happened?

17 A He had come up and my mom had made turkey in this
18 new roaster that she got and I didn't eat much because I was
19 scared and nervous and angry and they had called me in my
20 bedroom and they said that I had to do whatever they said and
21 then they had me take off my clothes and Dean took off his
22 clothes and my mom had her clothes off and we had -- well,
23 Dean was kissing me and had intercourse with me and then went
24 to my mom and had intercourse with her and there was pictures
25 taken. I had to give him oral sex and I had to kiss my mom.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1529

1 Q This was, this happened in whose bedroom?

2 A Mine.

3 Q And when you say they, you're referring to who?

4 A My mom and Dean.

5 Q You said that there were pictures taken?

6 A Yes.

7 Q The pictures were taken of whom?

8 A Me and Dean.

9 Q Who was taking the pictures?

10 A My mom.

11 Q And did you see the camera that she was taking
12 pictures with?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q Okay. You described earlier for us a camera
15 upstairs. Was this different or the same?

16 A I'm pretty sure it was the same because I don't
17 exactly remember.

18 Q Okay. And when pictures were taken, was your mom
19 the only one that took pictures?

20 A I believe Dean took a couple pictures with me and
21 my mom.

22 Q Okay. Now, when you were living at Norwich, did
23 you ever see your mom with this kind of a camera anywhere in
24 the house?

25 A No.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1530

1 Q So, do you believe it was her camera?

2 A I don't think so.

3 Q Okay. Did you know where the camera came from?

4 A No.

5 Q Now, when this happened in your bedroom, do you
6 know whether or not Dean had a condom on?

7 A I don't remember. I don't remember.

8 Q Okay. What was it that was going through your mind
9 when your mother and Dean were doing this?

10 A I hated them and I hated myself.

11 Q Did you at that point when you were in the bedroom,
12 did you at that point believe you had to do what was being
13 told to you or asked for you to do?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Did you say no?

16 A I tried saying no but they said I still had to do
17 it and I said that I was going to tell and they said if you
18 tell -- Dean said this, if you tell then I'll stab you and
19 rape you as you die.

20 Q Dean Sacco said that to you?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Did you think he was serious?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Now, prior to this happening, Shannon, had your
25 mom, to your knowledge, been involved in any of the other

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1531

1 times that Dean had done things to you?

2 A No.

3 Q Okay. Do you know in your mind, do you know
4 whether she even knew about the other?

5 A I'm not sure if she knew.

6 Q Okay. What happened after the things were
7 finished?

8 A They got dressed and they walked out because my mom
9 was up against the door, she moved the chair and walked out
10 with Dean and I had had a door to the bathroom so I ran and
11 got in the shower and just cried and cried.

12 Q On that occasion, did anybody give you anything,
13 either any kind of alcohol or anything?

14 A On Thanksgiving my mom had boughten, I believe it
15 was Smirnoff's or some kind of wine cooler.

16 Q Okay. Did you have that during -- before or after
17 or during dinner or before this happened?

18 A Before it happened.

19 Q Do you remember how many you drank?

20 A Like two.

21 Q And how did it make you feel?

22 A It made me feel all right for a little bit but when
23 the stuff was happening in my bedroom, like it didn't do
24 anything. I was still scared.

25 Q Now, Shannon up until this point in time, how many

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1532

1 times other than the events you described where Dean Sacco
2 did things to you, how many times would you say you would see
3 him around otherwise, around the property?

4 A A couple times trying to fix the upstairs
5 apartment.

6 Q Okay. Do you know what he was doing with the
7 upstairs apartment, did you know that?

8 A He was fixing the floors, and trying to make it
9 where he could live there.

10 Q When this happened on Thanksgiving, Shannon, did
11 you ever think about telling somebody?

12 A It had passed through my mind a couple of times but
13 I didn't want to get hurt and after he hit me when we were
14 upstairs, I knew that he could do anything.

15 Q What did you think as far as your mom was
16 concerned? What did you think, what goes on -- what was in
17 your mind of what was going on with you and her?

18 A I thought things went exactly back to the way
19 things were when we lived in Deposit and I was angry at her
20 for letting him do stuff to me and then her doing stuff to
21 me.

22 Q Did you ever express that to her?

23 A I got mad a couple times and like stayed in my
24 bedroom.

25 Q Okay. Did you and your mom get into any kind of

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1533

1 arguments?

2 A We got into quite a few over washing the dishes,
3 helping her around the house, like cleaning it and my dog
4 Buddy. We got in a lot of fights.

5 Q Okay. Is that what the arguments were about or
6 were they about your feelings towards her?

7 A Sometimes I would be mouthy, like I knew I was
8 being disrespectful and she'd yell back and I'd just get more
9 angry so I'd yell back and it was just a fight that if I
10 didn't stop saying anything, then it would just keep going
11 on.

12 Q Shannon, at any point in time up until now had you
13 ever gone with your mom to a hotel in Johnson City?

14 A Some time before -- like around Valentine's Day,
15 way before we moved to Norwich we went up.

16 Q Okay. Do you remember going one or more occasions
17 to a hotel in Johnson City before you guys moved to Norwich?

18 A Before we moved, I think once or twice we went
19 there but we'd go up to Binghamton to shop around but we
20 wouldn't stay at the hotel.

21 Q Okay. And do you remember the time or times that
22 you went to the hotel, do you remember staying at a hotel?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Do you remember where the hotel was?

25 A It was the Best Western that's by the Oakdale Mall.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1534

1 Q Okay.

2 A Like across the street from it.

3 Q Okay. And prior to moving to Norwich, what was the
4 purpose for going up to that hotel?

5 A When we went up there on Valentine's day, it was to
6 get away and me and my mom were celebrating Valentine's Day,
7 so we had bought each other gifts and we had bought wine
8 coolers, Bahama Mamas, and we drank them at the hotel.

9 Q Now, after this event that you just described for
10 us, and on Thanksgiving or around Thanksgiving, did there
11 come a point in time when your mom took you to that same
12 hotel?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. Do you remember -- let me ask you this: Do
15 you remember what you did with Buddy when you guys went to
16 the hotel?

17 A When we went around -- I believe it was around
18 December, my mom and me had taken him to the Pet Street
19 Station, who was a vet in Norwich, and he had stayed there.

20 Q Okay. And do you remember about how many -- how
21 long did you and your mom spend at the hotel on this event
22 that we're talking about now?

23 A I believe two nights or one night. I don't
24 remember how many nights.

25 Q Okay. And how did you get there?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1535

1 A We took the bus.

2 Q Okay. Now, before when you had gone to the hotel,
3 did you also take the bus?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Now, the prior times that you'd gone to this hotel,
6 you were living somewhere in the Deposit area?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. And this event that I'd like to talk about,
9 is this the first time that you went to the Best Western
10 after moving to Norwich?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And what did your mom say was the reason you guys
13 were going to go to the Best Western?

14 A We were just getting away from Norwich.

15 Q Okay. Did you think it was like the times before?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q And prior to going to the hotel, did you guys drop
18 Buddy off at the place you described?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And when you got to the hotel, at the Best Western,
21 now do you know who paid for the room when you got to the
22 hotel on this event?

23 A I believe my mom did.

24 Q What makes you think that?

25 A I sat down in the lobby and she was talking to the

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1536

1 person at the desk and she had money out and then we went to
2 our room.

3 Q Okay. Now, on this event that we're talking about
4 when you went to the Best Western, when you were at some
5 point at the hotel and in Binghamton, did you guys do any
6 shopping?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q What places do you remember shopping at?

9 A We -- I believe we went to a K-Mart and we went
10 around the Wal-Mart plaza because we were buying Christmas
11 presents.

12 Q Okay. And did something happen at the hotel while
13 you were staying there?

14 A Yes.

15 Q What happened?

16 A My mom was talking on the phone and I was hanging
17 out and I was in the bathroom and there was a knock at the
18 door and my mom I believe opened it because there was -- when
19 I got out of the bathroom there was a guy in the room.

20 Q Had you ever seen this guy before?

21 A I don't believe so, no.

22 Q And what was he doing when you came out?

23 A He was sittin' and said hi or something or how are
24 you.

25 Q What did your mom say?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1537

1 A I felt weird so I went back into the bathroom and
2 my mom had come in and said do what the man wants.

3 Q She came after you in the bathroom?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q And what did you do then?

6 A She told me to come out and he was there and told
7 me to get undressed and he got undressed and he told me to
8 lay on the bed and I got on the bed and he started kissing me
9 and making me touch him and then he made me have intercourse
10 with him.

11 Q Okay. Where was your mom when this happened?

12 A My mom was in the room.

13 Q Do you know what she was doing?

14 A I believe she was sittin' there.

15 Q Did she say anything?

16 A She just kept telling me to do what he wants.

17 Q He had sexual intercourse with you?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Do you know whether or not he had a condom on?

20 A I believe he didn't but I'm not sure.

21 Q Okay. Did you or did he perform any oral sex?

22 A He had me perform oral sex on him and then he did
23 it to me.

24 Q Okay. Shannon, when we're talking about oral sex,
25 you performing it on him, what does that mean just so we're

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1538

1 clear?

2 A Making me suck his penis.

3 Q And when he performed oral sex on you, what did he
4 do?

5 A He kissed my vagina.

6 Q Did your mom or this person say anything in front
7 of you as far as whether or not this man knew you?

8 A No.

9 Q Okay. Do you have any idea how your mom knew this
10 man?

11 A No.

12 Q Can you describe the person?

13 A He was -- I'm getting two people mixed up.

14 Q Okay. Which two people are you getting mixed up?

15 A The first time when we went and that happened and
16 the second time we went and that happened.

17 Q Okay. Were the people similar looking or different
18 looking?

19 A The younger guy was not white but he wasn't black.
20 He was like, I believe, Hispanic but I don't know.

21 Q Okay.

22 A And the other guy was black and he was older.

23 Q Okay. And this person, the first time that we're
24 talking about now, do you remember if he was the older guy or
25 the younger guy?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1539

1 A I honestly believe he was the younger guy.

2 Q Okay. Did your mom at any point talk to this man
3 about anything dealing with money?

4 A I'm not quite sure because after everything was
5 done, I went in the bathroom.

6 Q Okay. Did you see any money out?

7 A He had left and I came out and there was -- my mom
8 had like money that she didn't have before.

9 Q How do you know that?

10 A Because when we first went to Binghamton like we
11 had some money but not a lot, so after that she had a lot
12 more money and that's when we went to go like more -- like
13 shopping more and stuff.

14 Q Okay. So, she had had more money than you had seen
15 before when you first got there?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Now, do you remember how long it was that you
18 stayed at that hotel?

19 A Not quite sure.

20 Q Okay. After that time, did you ever see -- did you
21 ever see that man again?

22 A I don't believe so.

23 Q Okay. And I think I asked you: Did you have any
24 idea how he came to be at the hotel or arrive at the hotel?

25 A No.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1540

1 Q Now, Shannon, I'd next like to talk about something
2 that happened close or around the time just prior to
3 Christmas of that same year, 2006. Okay. The event I'd like
4 to talk about, do you recall an event where Brooke Parmalee
5 came over to see you?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What do you remember at the time where Brooke had
8 come to see you, what was going on with you at that time?

9 A I was upstairs with Dean.

10 Q Now, just prior to this event, had you been in
11 school?

12 A No. I was sick.

13 Q Okay. About how long do you remember being out of
14 school?

15 A I believe a week and then it was Christmas break so
16 that week, plus Christmas break.

17 Q Okay. So the event where Brooke stopped by to see
18 you, was that a school week, during the school week sometime?

19 A I believe it was after school.

20 Q Okay. After school in the daytime you mean?

21 A After school like break, when it was break.

22 Q Okay. And you had not been in school that prior
23 week?

24 A No.

25 Q Okay. Why was it that you weren't in school?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1541

1 A I was getting really like anxious and I couldn't
2 sleep at night so my mom had me take Vicodin and I took it
3 with wine coolers and I had gotten very, very sick after that
4 and I stayed in the bathroom, I could barely get up and I was
5 throwing up and my mom just went in her bedroom and I was
6 sick for a while after that.

7 Q Okay. So that was the week that you missed several
8 days of school?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Now, I'd like to talk about the event when you were
11 upstairs with Dean when Brooke stopped by. How was it that
12 you came to go upstairs or be upstairs with Dean?

13 A I was in my room listening to my music and playing
14 with my dog and my mom had answered the door and Dean was
15 there and they were talking for a little bit and then my mom
16 knocked on my door and said that I was going to go upstairs
17 with him.

18 Q Did you know what Dean and your mom were talking
19 about?

20 A No because I had my music loud.

21 Q Did your mom tell you why she wanted you to go
22 upstairs with Dean?

23 A No.

24 Q Did you know why it was that you were going
25 upstairs?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1542

1 A No. I had pretty good idea that he was going to
2 have intercourse with me.

3 Q Did you say no?

4 A No.

5 Q Did you end up going upstairs?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What happened when you got upstairs?

8 A He started kissing me and stuff and we took off our
9 clothes and he was having intercourse with me.

10 Q Okay. Did he tell you to take your clothes off or
11 you just took them off even without him telling you?

12 A He had started taking my shirt off and I kind of
13 like backed up and said I'd do it myself.

14 Q Okay. And where in the upstairs did he have
15 intercourse with you?

16 A In his bedroom where the cot was.

17 Q The same mattress that you described earlier?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And on that occasion, did Dean have any other type
20 of sexual contact with you other than the sexual intercourse?

21 A Can you restate that, please.

22 Q When you were upstairs with Dean, did he have you
23 do anything other than having sexual intercourse with you?

24 A He had me kiss him and stuff.

25 Q Okay. At any point in time did either of you do

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1543

1 any oral sex?

2 A I gave him oral sex.

3 Q By that, what did you do?

4 A I sucked on his penis.

5 Q At any point in time did you see any condom?

6 A No.

7 Q Do you know if he had a condom on?

8 A I don't believe so.

9 Q And when he performed sexual intercourse, did he
10 put his penis inside your vagina?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And what happened as he was having sexual
13 intercourse with you?

14 A There was a knock at the door and he said who is
15 it, my mom said it's me, that I needed to hurry up and get
16 downstairs because Brooke was there.

17 Q Okay. Did your mom come in or did she just knock?

18 A I believe she just knocked.

19 Q And what did you do then?

20 A I got dressed really fast and I went downstairs and
21 started talking to Brooke.

22 Q Okay. Was anybody with Brooke when you went
23 downstairs?

24 A Her father was.

25 Q Did you know him or had you ever met him before?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1544

1 A Yeah.

2 Q And why was it that Brooke came to talk to you?

3 A She wants to see why I was out of school and I told
4 her I was sick and she said -- asked me like what should I
5 get my dad for Christmas and like that. Stuff like that.

6 Q Okay. How long would you say you talked to Brooke
7 for?

8 A A short time.

9 Q Okay. And where was Dean when you came downstairs
10 when you talked to Brooke?

11 A He had came downstairs and started talking to her
12 dad.

13 Q Okay. Do you remember that?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. Where was your mom?

16 A My mom was outside with us.

17 Q Okay. Did you see her outside?

18 A Yeah. And at one point she went inside because
19 Buddy was barking really, really loud and he was scraping at
20 the door.

21 Q Okay. What happened after Brooke spoke to you?

22 A She went home and Brooke left, I don't know if she
23 went home, and I was told to go back upstairs and he said
24 that it was good I didn't say anything because he could do
25 anything.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1545

1 Q Who said that?

2 A Dean.

3 Q When you went back upstairs, what happened when you
4 were upstairs?

5 A He started kissing me again and he started touching
6 me and I like was very upset and I tried pushing him away and
7 I refused to do stuff and after he was kissing me, he told me
8 to just go downstairs.

9 Q Okay. Did you go downstairs then?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And did you talk to your mom at all when you got
12 downstairs?

13 A No. I went straight to my room.

14 Q At any point after you'd gotten downstairs, did you
15 have any discussions with your mom?

16 A I don't believe so. I was in my room crying and
17 Buddy had gotten in my room and I was holding him and petting
18 him.

19 THE COURT: Okay. We're going to break for
20 lunch, ladies and gentlemen. It's 12:30, we'll see you back
21 at 1:30.

22 (Jury excused).

23 (Lunch break taken).

24 (Jury present).

25 THE COURT: Mr. Lovric.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1546

1 MR. LOVRIC: I think the witness is coming in,
2 Judge.

3 THE COURT: Good. Okay, Mr. Lovric.

4 MR. LOVRIC: Thank you, Judge.

5 BY MR. LOVRIC:

6 Q Shannon, when we left off before lunch I had just
7 finished asking you to describe some events that happened on
8 the date that Brooke stopped over, do you remember that?

9 A Yes.

10 Q After that event, do you recall your birthday that
11 year, 2006?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And did something happen on your birthday?

14 A Yes.

15 Q What happened on your birthday?

16 A My mom made me, I believe it was cheesecake, and
17 Dean had stopped and I didn't eat much of my cheesecake
18 because my stomach was upset and I was scared and my mom had
19 given me my cellphone and then Dean had me go upstairs with
20 him.

21 Q Before you went upstairs, did your mom or Dean say
22 anything to you about going upstairs?

23 A No.

24 Q How did you go upstairs, how did you know to go
25 upstairs?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1547

1 A I was fooling around with my cellphone and Dean had
2 said that we needed to go upstairs.

3 Q Okay. Did you know what that was for?

4 A I assumed that was for the same thing that he had
5 been doing to me.

6 Q And did you go upstairs with him?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And when you got upstairs, what happened?

9 A He started kissing me and I had taken my clothes
10 off and had he done the same and he told me to lie down and
11 he had intercourse with me and then he made me give him oral
12 sex.

13 Q Okay. And where was your mom when this happened?

14 A Downstairs.

15 Q Did she come upstairs at any point in time?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. What happened when she came upstairs?

18 A She knocked on the door and he got up and he asked
19 who was it, my mom said it's just me and he opened the door
20 and she came back where I was.

21 Q Okay. Were you still naked?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Did your mom say anything?

24 A She didn't say anything.

25 Q Okay. Did your mom do anything when she got

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1548

1 upstairs?

2 A She got undressed and started kissing me and
3 touching me and made me touch her and then Dean and my mom
4 were kissing each other and they were touching each other.

5 Q On that event, this being on your birthday, was
6 Dean wearing anything on that date when he was upstairs?

7 A He had his cowboy hat on.

8 Q Had you seen that cowboy hat before this event on
9 your birthday?

10 A I don't believe so, no.

11 Q Do you know where he got this cowboy hat?

12 A No.

13 Q When did he put the cowboy hat on?

14 A After -- while I was giving him oral sex.

15 MR. FISCHER: I'm sorry. I just can't hear
16 it. I apologize.

17 (Record read back).

18 Q Now, Shannon, at some point when I had met with you
19 before trial, did I show you a hat?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. Did you recognize that hat that I had shown
22 you?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay. I just want to show you that same hat. Just
25 ask you -- is this the hat that I had shown you before?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1549

1 A Yes.

2 Q And did you recognize and do you recognize this
3 hat?

4 A Yes.

5 Q What does that look like you to?

6 A The hat that he wore.

7 Q On this date, on your birthday that you just
8 described?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Now, what happened after your mom had come up and
11 she did what you just described, what happened then?

12 A Dean had told me to get on top of him and I
13 panicked and got scared and I didn't do anything. I just sat
14 there and he pushed me off him and got on top of me.

15 Q Okay. Shannon, on that date do you remember if
16 Dean had a condom on?

17 A I don't believe so.

18 Q Okay. Shannon, is it fair to say that on some of
19 these events he had a condom on but some he didn't?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. And on some you saw it but on some you
22 didn't or you didn't know whether he had one?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Shannon, we talked earlier about -- the time
25 earlier prior to your birthday when your mom had taken you to

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1550

1 the Best Western hotel before lunch. Do you remember us
2 talking about that?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Now, did there come a point in time when your mom
5 took you back to that Best Western hotel?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Do you know when that was?

8 A I believe it was after my birthday.

9 Q Okay. And your birthday is on what date?

10 A December 27.

11 Q Okay. And we just talked about this event that
12 happened upstairs with Dean and your mom and a cowboy hat and
13 that was on your birthday?

14 A Yes.

15 Q How is it that you remembered that event being on
16 your birthday?

17 A Because I was turning 13 and when I had my birthday
18 party.

19 Q Okay. Now, the next time that your mom took you to
20 the Best Western, did your mom tell you that you were going
21 to the Best Western hotel?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Did you know why you were going there?

24 A No.

25 Q Did she tell you?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1551

1 A No.

2 Q Did you have any -- what did you think you were
3 going to the Best Western for?

4 A I really didn't know what to think.

5 Q Okay. Did you think it was going to be the same
6 thing that happened to you last time?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And when you went to the Best Western sometime, as
9 you indicated after your birthday, how did you and your mom
10 get to the Best Western?

11 A By the bus.

12 Q Okay. And on this, I'll call it on the second
13 time, on this second time do you recall how long you and your
14 mom stayed at the Best Western?

15 A I believe it was around the same time as last time.

16 Q Okay. When you got to the Best Western this second
17 time, when you got to the lobby, were you there with your mom
18 when she was up at the counter area?

19 A I was walking around and getting their milk from
20 one of the rooms and just hanging around like walking.

21 Q Was this in the lobby area or somewhere else in the
22 hotel area?

23 A It's around the lobby because their kitchen is like
24 right next to it.

25 Q Did you and your mom at some point go to the room?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1552

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. When you went to the room, did you go into
3 the room?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay. And did anything happen once you were in the
6 room?

7 A There was a man in there.

8 Q Okay. Now the man in the room, we talked earlier
9 about the, as I'll call it, the first time you went to the
10 Best Western. Same or different man that you saw last time?

11 A Different.

12 Q How was this man different from the first one, how
13 would you describe this man?

14 A He was older and he was darker.

15 Q Okay. Darker skinned --

16 A Yeah.

17 Q -- than the first man?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. Had you ever met this man, this second man
20 before? Have you seen him to your knowledge?

21 A I don't believe so.

22 Q Okay. What were you thinking when you walked into
23 the room and saw him?

24 A I got very nervous and I was thinking that my mom
25 was going to have me do the same thing.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1553

1 Q Okay. Did your mom say anything once you got into
2 the room?

3 A She told me to go in the bathroom and I went in the
4 bathroom and she came in and told me to do whatever the man
5 said and I came out and I got undressed and he got undressed
6 and he made me get on the bed and my mom sat there eatin'
7 donuts and watching TV.

8 Q Okay. Now, the man in the room, did he tell you
9 what he wanted you to do?

10 A He told me that he wanted me to kiss him and that I
11 had to give him oral sex.

12 Q Did you do that?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Did he ejaculate?

15 A I -- I don't remember.

16 Q Okay. And then did he have sexual intercourse with
17 you?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Do you know if he ejaculated when he had sexual
20 intercourse with you?

21 A I'm not sure. I don't remember.

22 Q Do you know or do you remember whether or not he
23 had a condom on?

24 A I don't remember.

25 Q Now, Shannon, this event, did you see or did you

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1554

1 know whether this man paid any money to your mother?

2 A After he was done, I came out from the bathroom and
3 there was money on the table.

4 Q Had you seen the money on the table -- was that
5 money on the table there before you went into the bathroom?

6 A No.

7 Q Okay. So, you went into the bathroom after he was
8 finished?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And when you came out was he still there or was he
11 gone at that point in time?

12 A He was gone, I believe, because I had taken a
13 shower.

14 Q Okay. And on that second event, did you or you and
15 your mom do any shopping while you were at the Best Western
16 or in that area?

17 A I believe so.

18 Q Okay. What makes you believe you did?

19 A Because I'm pretty sure we went to the mall.

20 Q Okay. The mall near the hotel?

21 A Yes.

22 Q The two different men that we've talked about so
23 far at the Best Western, those two men were to the best of
24 your recollection different men?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1555

1 Q Okay. And to the best of your recollection you
2 don't remember ever seeing either of them before those
3 events?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Now, Shannon, at some point in January, this would
6 be now January of 2007, the month after your birthday, was
7 Dean Sacco still coming to 45 Fair Street?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And in January did you overhear or did you hear any
10 conversation between your mom and Dean Sacco regarding money?

11 A They started arguing about rent and that my mom
12 owed money and that she really needs to get it in.

13 Q Now, who was saying that?

14 A Dean.

15 Q And what was your mom saying about that?

16 A I can't put her on quote but I believe she said
17 that she was trying, she was doing the best she could.

18 Q Okay. And in January of 2007, was there an event
19 where Dean had sex with you again?

20 A Yes.

21 Q How did that happen?

22 A I don't remember if my mom or Dean told me to go
23 upstairs but I ended up going upstairs and he had sexual
24 intercourse with me.

25 Q Okay. Same apartment, empty apartment upstairs?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1556

1 A Yes.

2 Q And the time that he had sex with you in January,
3 was this before or after you heard that argument between your
4 mom and Dean Sacco?

5 A I don't remember.

6 Q Now, Shannon at some point the following month in
7 February of 2007, did Dean Sacco have sex with you again in
8 that month?

9 A In February, yes.

10 Q Okay. About how long would you say it was prior to
11 you going to foster care?

12 A I believe a couple weeks.

13 Q Okay. And on this event in February of 2007 where
14 did Dean take you to have sex with you?

15 A Upstairs.

16 Q And was there anything unusual that you saw when
17 you got upstairs?

18 A He had taken me to the -- the other side of the
19 house and there was candles and his mattress was there and
20 there was a camera on boxes.

21 Q Okay. When you say a camera on boxes, what do you
22 mean by that?

23 A There was a camera that I hadn't seen before. It
24 was sittin' on boxes.

25 Q Okay. So it's like set up on a box or boxes?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1557

1 A Yes.

2 Q Now, the camera that you're talking about in
3 February of 2007, was this -- was this camera ever used on
4 those other occasions when you had talked about a camera
5 being used?

6 A No.

7 Q So this is the first time you saw it?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. Now, do you recall on one of the occasions
10 when you met with me showing you a camera?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And did you recognize that camera?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And how did you recognize that camera, what was it?

15 A It was the same camera that he used in February.

16 Q Okay. And the same one he used on this one
17 occasion?

18 A Yes.

19 Q All right. Shannon, I'm just going to show you
20 this -- for the record it's Government Exhibit 36. Shannon,
21 is that the camera that I showed you?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And did you recognize this camera?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And is this the camera you recognized he used in

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1558

1 February of '07?

2 A Yes.

3 Q The one that was on top of the boxes?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Now, did Dean tell you or say anything to you about
6 the candles?

7 A I don't remember. I don't recall anything.

8 Q Okay. When he had brought you upstairs and that
9 camera was set up on the boxes, what did he have you do and
10 what did you do?

11 A He had me get undressed and I went over and laid on
12 the bed and he started taking pictures. He had me pose
13 different ways and then he came over and had intercourse with
14 me.

15 Q Okay. When he was having intercourse with you,
16 where was the camera?

17 A It was set up on the boxes.

18 Q Okay. Could you tell or did you know whether or
19 not that camera was on at the time?

20 A I -- I believe so but I'm not sure.

21 Q Now, Shannon, the camera that you had described
22 earlier today that was used on one or more earlier occasions
23 prior to this February of '07, that camera, was it the same
24 or different than this camera that I just showed you?

25 A It was different.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1559

1 Q Okay. How were the two cameras different from your
2 observations from looking at them?

3 A The other camera had had a lens that zoomed in and
4 went out.

5 Q Was the other camera the same size, smaller or
6 larger than the one I just showed you?

7 A I believe around the same size but it was different
8 setup completely.

9 Q Okay. Shannon, during the time that you had
10 contact, any kind of contact with Dean Sacco, did he ever ask
11 you or speak to you about George Lang?

12 A He asked me about it. I don't remember when but I
13 know he asked me about it.

14 Q What did he ask you about George?

15 A He said well, what had happened between you and
16 him? And I was like confused because I hadn't said anything
17 to him and he started talking about it and I said, yeah,
18 that's right and he did that and that.

19 Q Okay. Now, prior to Dean Sacco asking you about
20 George, had you ever said anything to him about George Lang?

21 A No.

22 Q And when Dean Sacco began to ask you about George,
23 the things that he was asking, did it sound like he knew
24 things that George had done to you?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1560

1 Q Are these things that he was asking about, are any
2 of these things that you had told him about first?

3 A No.

4 Q Do you know how it is that Dean Sacco learned about
5 what George Lang did to you?

6 A I don't know how he knows or how he knew.

7 Q You didn't tell him first?

8 A No.

9 Q Okay. Now, Shannon, Shannon, end of February of
10 2007, do you remember an event that happened at Pizza Hut?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. What happened there?

13 A Me and my mom were hungry and we had gone to Pizza
14 Hut and we ordered food and we walked out without paying
15 after we ate it and somebody from Pizza Hut called out to us
16 and said that we had better get back inside, that the police
17 were coming.

18 Q Okay. Did the police at some point arrive?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. And did you and your mom leave the
21 restaurant without paying?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay. Had that happened before?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q Do you recall how many times?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1561

1 A I believe like two.

2 Q Okay. Two times before that event?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Why was it that your mom and you left without
5 paying?

6 A Me and mom were really hungry and she didn't have
7 money to pay and we didn't have food at our house.

8 Q Okay. Now, this was somewhere towards the end of
9 February of '07?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Had you gotten or had your mom bought a brand new
12 dog in January, the month before?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Which dog was that?

15 A It was my -- my dog Princess.

16 Q Okay. And do you remember where your mom bought
17 that dog?

18 A The same store where we had bought Buddy.

19 Q Okay. Do you know how much that dog cost?

20 A I believe like 900 something.

21 Q Okay. So the month before this thing happens at
22 Pizza Hut, your mom spent several hundreds dollars on this
23 dog?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And the month before this thing happens at Pizza

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1562

1 Hut is when you heard this discussion between Dean and your
2 mother about rent?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Had your mother ever asked, other than the Pizza
5 Hut events, did she ever ask you to steal anything?

6 A Yes.

7 Q How did that happen?

8 A We would be hungry and my mom wouldn't have money
9 to get food, so we would go to P&C and we would get a cart
10 and fill it up with food and we'd put it in bags and we'd
11 walk out.

12 Q Just walk out without paying?

13 A Yes.

14 Q How often did this happen?

15 A A couple times.

16 Q Did your mom ever ask you to steal anything from
17 the pharmacy?

18 A From that one store. I forgot, it's owned by Rite
19 Aid now.

20 Q Okay. What did you -- what did she have you take?

21 A Diet pills.

22 Q When you were living at Norwich street, were there
23 times when there wasn't food in the house?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Did this happen often?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1563

1 A At the end, around, in January and February it
2 happened.

3 Q Okay. Shannon, do you recall New Year's of 2007 at
4 the house at Norwich?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Did anybody give you any kind of drinks or drink?

7 A Yes.

8 Q What happened?

9 A All I can remember is that I drank a lot and I
10 don't remember what happened after that.

11 Q Okay. What were you drinking?

12 A I believe it was Smirnoff's.

13 Q Okay. Who gave you the drinks?

14 A My mom -- well, Dean had bought them and brought
15 them over to our place and my mom gave them to me.

16 Q Okay. Did your mom keep the alcohol in a
17 particular place in the apartment?

18 A After we were done, like if we knew that my case
19 worker Liz was coming over, we'd try to hide them but if not,
20 like if we didn't know if anybody was coming over, we just
21 kept them out.

22 Q Did your mom ever tell you not to tell DSS case
23 workers about the alcohol?

24 A She never told me not to tell about the alcohol.

25 Q Okay. While you were being given the alcohol to

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1564

1 drink, is this throughout the time frame that we have been
2 talking about?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. You drank on a few occasions?

5 A M-m h-m-m.

6 Q You have to say yes?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Yes or no?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Just so Vicky can get it. Shannon, did you ever
11 call Dean on his telephone, either work or cellphone?

12 A When I met with the Detective Blenis I did.

13 Q Okay. We're going to talk about that in a few
14 minutes. But prior to when you sat down with Detective
15 Blenis, had you ever called Dean?

16 A No.

17 Q Okay. Either on the home phone or on your
18 cellphone or on any phone?

19 A No.

20 Q Okay. Now, at some point you had gotten a
21 cellphone, a TracFone?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Did you carry that phone around all the time?

24 A No. I kept it usually in my bedroom because I
25 wasn't allowed to bring it to school.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1565

1 Q Okay. The school had a policy you couldn't bring
2 it to school?

3 A No. It was my mom's rule that school isn't a place
4 for cellphones.

5 Q Okay. So, when you were at school that cellphone
6 was where?

7 A At home.

8 Q And did you ever use that cellphone to call Dean
9 Sacco?

10 A No.

11 Q Shannon, after the police came to the Pizza Hut, do
12 you recall then speaking to Elizabeth Chesebro at some point
13 after the police had come out to talk to you and your mom?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And did you at that point in time, did you then go
16 into foster care?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And the foster care that you went into, was this a
19 family that you went to live with?

20 A Yes.

21 Q How were they when you went into the foster care
22 family, how were they to live with?

23 A They were really nice. They made me feel really
24 comfortable. I -- I felt comfortable there.

25 Q Were there other children in the family?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1566

1 A Yes.

2 Q Do you remember how many?

3 A All of us together, there was seven.

4 Q Okay. And after you went into foster care, do you
5 remember an event at school where you told your teacher
6 something that happened?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Do you remember the teacher?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Who is that?

11 A Miss Dudick -- Miss Duke.

12 Q Okay. How did it come about that you said
13 something to her?

14 A In science class we were learning about sex
15 education.

16 Q And what about it caused you to say anything or to
17 talk to her about it?

18 A I -- I had been kind of like friends with her but
19 when we were talking about it, I went up to her and I said
20 is -- I forgot exactly what I said -- but I said something
21 about what if somebody older than you has sex with you and
22 you don't say no.

23 Q Okay.

24 A And she had asked me if there was anything that I
25 needed to talk to her about and I got really quiet and I said

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1567

1 yes, and after that I went into math for like 15 minutes and
2 I went back out and I stood there and she asked me and I said
3 yes, and she asked who and I said it was our landlord.

4 Q Okay. And then at some point later do you remember
5 talking to a Liz Chesebro?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And did Liz ask you to tell her what happened with
8 the landlord?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And did you describe for Liz things that you had
11 talked to us here today about?

12 A Some of them.

13 Q Okay. On the date that you talked to Liz, did you
14 say anything to Liz about things that your mom did to you or
15 things that George did to you?

16 A No.

17 Q Why not?

18 A Because I was so scared and it -- I was just trying
19 to focus on saying what happened with Dean.

20 Q Okay. So at that point in time you didn't disclose
21 anything about what your mom and George Lang did to you?

22 A No. I was also scared that I was going back home
23 to live with my mom.

24 Q So you at some point, you'd go back after foster
25 care to be with her again?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1568

1 A Yes.

2 Q After you spoke to Liz Chesebro, do you remember
3 then meeting Investigator Pat Blenis?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And where do you remember first meeting him?

6 A By the -- I don't know if it's the jail itself but
7 there was a small jail by the post office in Norwich.

8 Q Okay.

9 A And I went there.

10 Q Okay. Was it somewhere near around his office?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And did Detective Blenis sit down with you and talk
13 with you about things that you described Dean Sacco doing to
14 you?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And when you sat down with him, did you tell him
17 anything about your mom or George Lang?

18 A No.

19 Q So you just described things that Dean had done?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Now, Shannon, at some point after Investigator
22 Blenis spoke with you, do you remember going to his office
23 and making telephone calls to Dean Sacco?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. Now, before Detective Blenis had you make

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1569

1 those calls, did he explain to you what he wanted you to do
2 and the kind of the things that he wanted you to talk to Dean
3 Sacco about?

4 A He told me to try and lure him and by asking if the
5 last time he had intercourse with me if he wore a condom.

6 Q Okay. So you discussed this with Investigator
7 Blenis and he kind of gave you topics to bring up and talk to
8 him about?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. And who do you remember being there when
11 these calls were placed?

12 A Detective Blenis, Liz and this other officer.

13 Q Okay. Okay. And do you remember at some point --
14 somebody placed these calls and you remember speaking to Dean
15 Sacco?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. Now, prior to coming here, have I played any
18 of those calls for you?

19 A No.

20 Q Have you ever heard those calls?

21 A No.

22 Q Okay. What I'd like to ask you is: Do you
23 remember, tell me if you remember or not, do you remember at
24 some point in your talking to Dean on the telephone he brings
25 up the topic of George Lang or the Grandpa?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1570

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. Were you nervous when he did that?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Why is that?

5 A Because I wasn't ready to tell about that first of
6 all and I didn't want my mom to know because there was a
7 chance I was going back with her.

8 Q So you had not told Detective Blenis or Liz
9 anything about George or your mom?

10 A No.

11 Q And do you remember what you did when Dean brought
12 this up on the telephone conversation, do you remember what
13 you said to him?

14 A I said no, no, you were the first one and he's dead
15 anyway.

16 Q Okay. And after the phone conversations, do you
17 remember whether or not Detective Blenis or Liz said anything
18 or asked you anything about this Grandpa person, George?

19 MR. FISCHER: Objection, your Honor. Hearsay.
20 Conversations after the telephone call.

21 THE COURT: That's true. Hearsay.

22 Q What do you remember, Shannon, what do you remember
23 Shannon saying to anybody after the phone calls about George
24 or the Grandpa?

25 MR. FISCHER: I'm sorry, your Honor. I have

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1571

1 an objection. I'm not sure -- you asked her what Shannon
2 said afterward?

3 (Record read back).

4 MR. FISCHER: That's still hearsay and I
5 object.

6 THE COURT: Sustained.

7 MR. LOVRIC: I was asking this witness that
8 though, Judge --

9 THE COURT: I think it's hearsay too. Are you
10 offering it for --

11 MR. LOVRIC: It's going to her state of mind
12 in terms of what was going on in her head at the time when
13 she's saying these things and being asked these things.

14 THE COURT: Yeah. I think it's relevant for
15 that purpose. It's not hearsay. It's for her state of mind.

16 BY MR. LOVRIC:

17 Q Do you understand the question, Shannon?

18 A No, not now.

19 Q What did you say to anybody about George or Grandpa
20 at that time?

21 A I denied it.

22 Q Okay. Why's that?

23 A Because I was still scared that I was going home
24 and I wasn't ready to say anything.

25 Q Now, do you remember at some point you came back to

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1572

1 Detective Blenis after the first day to make additional calls
2 to Dean Sacco?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. And did you, in fact, speak to Dean Sacco on
5 the telephone?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. Now, at this point in time, March of 2007,
8 you're in foster care with your family you described?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And generally speaking, Shannon, how are you doing
11 with the family? How are you -- how are you making out and
12 getting along in terms of the family?

13 A I was doing real well. I was learning sign
14 language because one of their girls is deaf. I was getting
15 along great with the other kids and I started calling them
16 mom and dad because I felt so comfortable.

17 Q Okay. And do you remember how long it was that you
18 stayed with the foster family?

19 A Up until September 19 of whatever last year was.

20 Q Okay. And during the time that you were in the
21 foster family, did you have contact with your mom?

22 A Yes.

23 Q How would you have contact with her?

24 A She could call me or I would call her. I started
25 going on home visits.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1573

1 Q Okay. The home visits you would go visit her, is
2 that correct?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. Would anybody go with you?

5 A Somebody from DSS would go.

6 Q Okay. And how did that go with your mom, the
7 visitation?

8 A It was, it was good. We had fun times. We got
9 along.

10 Q Okay. Did you know during this time period, March
11 and September of 2007, did you know what was going to happen
12 to you as far as in the very end where you were going to go,
13 what was going to happen, did you have any idea?

14 A No.

15 Q Did you ever ask or did anybody ever give you any
16 feedback on what might happen?

17 A I asked if, if I was going to go back any time
18 soon. If I could either stay with the family I was with or
19 go up for adoption.

20 Q Did you get any clear answers to what eventually
21 would or would not happen?

22 A They said I would have to go to court and I have to
23 have foster care for more than a year and they really didn't
24 know what was going to happen.

25 Q Okay. Shannon, I'd like to show you what's in

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1574

1 evidence or actually I'll put it on the screen. This is
2 Government Exhibit 62, Shannon. Can you see that?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Just pull that mike --

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. Do you recognize that?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Who wrote that?

9 A I did.

10 Q And do you remember where it was when you wrote
11 this?

12 A I believe it was in my school notebook but I was in
13 my bedroom.

14 Q At which house?

15 A Forty-five Fair Street.

16 Q Okay. And can you read what's there?

17 A I'm going to kill myself. I hate myself. I want
18 to die.

19 Q After you wrote this, do you remember what you did
20 with this?

21 A I threw it out.

22 Q Okay. When you wrote this, you were living at 45
23 Fair Street?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Why did you write this, what was going on inside

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1575

1 your head at the time?

2 A I was very frustrated and I couldn't handle my
3 emotions no more.

4 Q Shannon, while you were in foster care, you --
5 while you were speaking to your mom, communicating either by
6 telephone or in person, did you to the best that you can tell
7 us now, did you still want to go back to your mom?

8 A A part of me did and a part of me didn't.

9 Q And was there anybody or anything that was
10 influencing you personally, whether it was DSS or any other
11 entity out there, was anybody telling you what you should do
12 or shouldn't do?

13 A No.

14 Q Were you having these mixed feelings simply inside
15 your own head?

16 A Yes, because I love my mom dearly and I wanted to
17 be with her but I didn't want to go back, I didn't want to
18 get hurt again.

19 Q Now, what happened September 19? You told us this
20 morning when we started that you ended up going to the
21 Greater Binghamton Health Center, do you remember that?

22 A Yes.

23 Q What happened in September, what happened to you
24 and what was going on?

25 A I would not handle my stress good and me and my

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1576

1 friends in school would cut ourselves with like the knives
2 we'd get from the cafeteria and stuff and September 19 I said
3 that I was going to kill myself to my friends and they were a
4 little upset but they're like, yeah, I understand how you
5 feel and I was in the nurse's station because I didn't feel
6 good and I had taken my sweatshirt off and the nurse had seen
7 the cuts on my arm and she called for the school counselor
8 and she came down.

9 Q Okay. You were starting to have thoughts about
10 hurting yourself again and you were hurting yourself?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And do you remember then DSS taking you out of the
13 foster care family and putting you into the health center?

14 A Yes.

15 Q How would you describe your emotional feelings at
16 that point?

17 A I was mad. All I wanted to do is die. I didn't
18 understand why they had to put me somewhere.

19 Q Now, after you went into the health center, you
20 were in the crisis center there, is that right?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Were you having a very difficult time?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And at some point when you were in the Crisis
25 Center, do you recall starting to tell counselors there about

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1577

1 some things that happened that involved your mom?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Do you remember in October sitting down with
4 Detective Blenis and Liz Chesebro?

5 A I believe so.

6 Q Okay. Did you tell them some things that your mom
7 was involved in with the camera?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Now, did you tell the people at the crisis center
10 or Liz or Detective Blenis, did you tell them everything the
11 first time?

12 A No.

13 Q What's going on in your head at that point?

14 A I needed to get some of it out because my body
15 couldn't handle it no more. And I got out as much as I could
16 and then I just kept stuff in.

17 Q All right. Now, do you remember Miss Florance-Diaz
18 at the Crisis Center, her first name is Lisa?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Was she somebody that you dealt with and worked
21 with at the health center?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And did there come a point in time when you told
24 her about George and about your mom?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1578

1 Q And then do you remember Detective Blenis coming to
2 see you and a person named Denise Oliver talking with you?

3 A Yes.

4 Q All right. And did you describe for Denise and Liz
5 the things that George and your mom had done to you?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What was it that finally caused you to come out and
8 say everything about your mom?

9 A I needed to get it all out because I had started
10 having trouble with my sleeping. I was on and off one one
11 and my body was like physically getting sick because I was
12 holding so much in.

13 Q Shannon, during the time period between October and
14 December, did you try to commit suicide when you were at the
15 health center?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Do you remember that day?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Can you tell us what you did and why you did it?

20 A I had just gotten my shoelaces back for being on a
21 certain level of observation and I went in my room and I took
22 the shoelace out and I wrapped it around my neck.

23 Q And what did you do then?

24 A I tried pulling it tighter and tighter until I
25 remember falling on the ground and one of the other girls

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1579

1 there knocked on my door because it was snack time and I had
2 just like started -- like my body was out of it and when I
3 heard her, I quickly got the shoelace off my neck and put on
4 a hoodie.

5 Q Okay. Did the hospital staff at some point realize
6 what you had tried to do?

7 A Yes, because my face had started getting dots on it
8 and they made me take off my hoodie and there was a mark
9 around my neck.

10 Q Shannon, I'd like to show you Government Exhibit
11 111 that's in evidence. Can you take a look at that.
12 Shannon, do you recognize that two-page document?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Who wrote that?

15 A I did.

16 Q And in relation to what you just described for us,
17 when did you write that?

18 A Right before I tried killing myself.

19 Q Shannon, I'm going to put on the screen here the
20 second page of this document, it's numbered 111. Can you see
21 this?

22 A Yeah.

23 Q You wrote the second page of this document?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. And you wrote the first page?

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1580

1 A Yes.

2 Q And on this document did you put down some of the
3 things that you've testified about happening to you?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And why did you write this note?

6 A Because I had to get stuff out. My way of coping
7 then was writing stuff.

8 Q Okay. When you tied that shoelace around your
9 neck, were you trying to kill yourself?

10 A Yep.

11 Q And when you left this note, did you want somebody
12 to know why it happened and what you did and why?

13 A Yeah. I thought I was actually going to be
14 successful and I wanted to explain so that people wouldn't be
15 mad at me.

16 Q Shannon, when you were at the health center and
17 when you started to disclose things to the health providers,
18 did you know whether or not the police at some point would go
19 to talk to your mom about the first things you revealed about
20 her being there when the pictures were taken and the camera?

21 A Yes.

22 Q How did you learn that or how did you know that?

23 A I had contact with my social worker Liz and I asked
24 her to get updates because I didn't have any other contact to
25 the outside world.

Shannon O'Connor - Direct

1581

1 Q Okay. Liz told you that the police would go talk
2 to your mom?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Was it after that you tried to kill yourself?

5 A Yes.

6 Q After you tried to kill yourself, did you stay in
7 the health center for some time?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What did you think was going to happen with you
10 after that?

11 A I thought I was going to end up staying there for
12 ever but then they started talking to me about going to RTF.

13 Q The place where you are right now?

14 A Yes.

15 Q How would you say you're doing, Shannon?

16 A Right now I'm doing good.

17 Q And, Shannon, as far as your mom goes today, what
18 do you think or what do you feel about her?

19 A I love her with every ounce of my body but I hate
20 what she did.

21 MR. LOVRIC: That's all I have, Judge.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Fischer.

23 MR. FISCHER: Thank you, your Honor.

24 CROSS-EXAMINATION

25 BY MR. FISCHER:

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1582

1 Q Miss O'Connor, my name is Kelly Fischer, I
2 represent Dean Sacco. I'm going to ask you a number of
3 questions. If you don't understand my questions, please let
4 me know, okay?

5 A Yes.

6 Q First of all, there were a number of people here
7 today in the courtroom that were associated with your past,
8 am I correct?

9 A Yes.

10 Q There were a number of people seated back here, am
11 I correct?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Do you recognize any of them?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Who do you recognize?

16 A Miss MacNamara, Dr. Toth, I don't remember his name
17 but I've seen him. Christey, Peachy, Linda, and Mr. Love,
18 but he's not there right now.

19 Q Mr. McBride is here, the fellow who asked you
20 questions when you presented grand jury testimony in Chenango
21 County?

22 A Yes.

23 Q You recognize him?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q Do you know why you're here?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1583

1 A Yes.

2 Q Why?

3 A Because I have to testify.

4 Q Were you given a subpoena?

5 A What's that?

6 Q Today did you speak with Mr. Lovric?

7 A Yes.

8 Q I mean, other than in the courtroom, outside the
9 courtroom?

10 A Yes.

11 Q When did you speak with Mr. Lovric outside the
12 courtroom today?

13 A When I first came here, during lunch.

14 Q What were those conversations about?

15 A Me eating chicken wings and music.

16 Q Okay. Nothing having to do with your testimony?

17 A He was preparing me like asking me other questions.

18 Q And that's both this morning and at lunchtime
19 today?

20 A Yes.

21 Q After you testified this morning?

22 A Yes.

23 Q There are -- I withdraw that. You have been
24 associated in one way or the other with government support,
25 DSS and other agencies for years now, haven't you?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1584

1 A Yes.

2 Q A lot of people along the way?

3 A Yes.

4 Q You've spoken with some of these people about these
5 matters?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Did you have contact with DSS people before August
8 of -- August of 2006?

9 A No.

10 Q Did your mom, when you were around, have contact
11 with DSS people before August of '06?

12 A I don't believe so, but I'm not sure.

13 Q You have a brother Walter.

14 A Yes.

15 Q When did Walter live in the same residence where
16 you lived?

17 A I don't remember him living with us.

18 Q As I understand, you can remember back to about
19 eight, ten?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And where were you living at that time?

22 A Around ten I was, I believe, at 44 Pine Street.

23 Q You don't have any recollections before that time?

24 A I remember bits and pieces of when I was little.

25 Q But no steady recollection of say eight- or

1 nine-years old?

2 A When I was eight I had my appendix out.

3 Q But just bits and pieces?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q When did you move to an RTF?

6 A March 26.

7 Q What is an RTF?

8 A Residential treatment facility.

9 Q And up until March 26, you were staying at that
10 Greater Binghamton Health Center?

11 A Yes.

12 Q After March 26, though, up until today, have you
13 had continual contact with Liz Chesebro?

14 A Yes.

15 Q How frequently was that contact?

16 A I call her whenever I can because she's -- she and
17 Dr. Toth are on my phone list.

18 Q Have you spoken with Liz on a daily basis since
19 March 26?

20 A I try, whenever I can get ahold of her, I talk to
21 her.

22 Q Would you say you've spoken with her at least four
23 or five times a week on average?

24 A Some weeks, some weeks I wouldn't call anybody.

25 Q Have you been given any prescriptions for

1 medication?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Recently?

4 A I believe so.

5 Q What kind of medications do you take?

6 A I take Zoloft, Trazodone, Seroquel and a vitamin.

7 Q How often do you take those?

8 A I take the 25 milligrams of Seroquel and Zoloft in
9 the morning and I take 200 milligrams of Seroquel and 50 of
10 Trazodone at night.

11 Q How does that make you feel?

12 A I think I'm a lot better on my medicine and if I
13 don't take my night medicine, I can't fall asleep.

14 Q The night medicine, is that 200 milligrams of
15 Seroquel and the Trazodone?

16 A Yes.

17 Q How much Trazodone, do you know?

18 A I believe it's 50.

19 Q When you take your morning meds, how does that make
20 you feel?

21 A I don't know. If I'm off it for a certain point in
22 time I can notice that I'm more depressed, I'm more easily to
23 hurt myself but when I'm on it, as far as I see myself, I'm
24 doing great.

25 Q And you took those medications, say, last night and

1 this morning?

2 A Yes.

3 Q I'd like to go through a list of people and you
4 tell me whether you've had discussions with these people
5 about the subjects that you've testified to here today, okay?

6 A Okay.

7 Q Mr. Lovric?

8 A Yes.

9 Q How much time have you spent, would you say
10 overall, speaking with Mr. Lovric in this case?

11 A I talked to him around five times.

12 Q Five times here in this building?

13 A Couple of times here but two of the times were up
14 at my placement.

15 Q When you spoke with Mr. Lovric here, was it a
16 meeting that lasted several hours?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Who did more of the talking during those occasions,
19 Mr. Lovric or you?

20 A It depended on what we were talking about or if I
21 was getting off the subject.

22 Q Was Mr. Lyons present, the gentleman here?

23 A Sometimes.

24 Q Did he ask questions?

25 A I think sometimes but not often.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1588

1 Q During any of your meetings did anybody show you
2 any documents?

3 A No.

4 Q Did they show you any objects?

5 A The hat and the camera.

6 Q Just the one camera, am I correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And that's the camera that was here in the small
9 black bag?

10 A Yes.

11 Q The one that Mr. Lovric pulled out and showed you
12 today?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Did anybody start that camera up, plug it in and
15 start it up when you met with Mr. Lovric on that occasion?

16 A No.

17 Q And the hat was shown to you on one occasion?

18 A Yes.

19 Q That was the only things that anybody showed you
20 concerning this case during those meetings?

21 A I believe some pictures.

22 Q You saw some pictures too?

23 A Yes.

24 Q What pictures did you see?

25 A The ones that I saw today. Me, when we were

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1589

1 staying at the Best Western, like me jumping on the bed and
2 stuff.

3 Q Did you see -- withdraw that. Did anybody show you
4 anything else during those meetings?

5 A No.

6 Q During those meetings did anybody ask -- discuss
7 with you, let's start with, say, the telephone conversations
8 that you had with Mr. Sacco that were tape recorded on
9 March 14 and 15 of 2007. Did anybody speak with you about
10 those?

11 A I think we went over it briefly.

12 Q When you say briefly, how long did you spend
13 talking about those subjects?

14 A Matter of minutes.

15 Q Five minutes, an hour, more?

16 A Probably more than five minutes.

17 Q Less than an hour?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Less than half an hour?

20 A I'm not quite sure.

21 Q You've spoke with a woman by the name of Naomi
22 Panus, am I correct?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Do you remember that back in August of 2006, the
25 first time that DSS got involved with you, that it was Naomi

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1590

1 Panus who came and spoke with you the first time?

2 A Yes.

3 Q You spoke with Lance at the YMCA camp?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And he called Naomi and Naomi came and spoke with
6 you?

7 A Yes. I believe it was when I was in the hospital.

8 Q That was the first time that you had any
9 conversations with DSS about anything that had happened to
10 you?

11 A I believe so.

12 Q Naomi remained your case worker until October or
13 November of 2006, am I correct?

14 A Yes.

15 Q You had conversations with Naomi on a regular basis
16 during that time, am I correct?

17 A Yes.

18 Q What was your relationship like with Naomi?

19 A It was all right.

20 Q Did she ask you questions?

21 A After the time of me on the computer she started
22 asking questions.

23 Q Well, the first time, let's say, that she met you
24 when you were in the hospital after the August 11
25 conversation with Lance, did she ask you questions then?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1591

1 A I don't really remember what was said because I was
2 pretty much in and out of it.

3 Q What do you mean?

4 A The first time I had ever talked to her was when I
5 was in Norwich hospital after taking all the meds, so I don't
6 remember what was said.

7 Q Okay. So when you went to the Norwich hospital in
8 August of 2006 they gave you meds then?

9 A I don't know what they gave me. I don't know if
10 they were trying to get the other meds out or I don't
11 remember.

12 Q But you remember that when Naomi spoke with you
13 first at the Chenango hospital you were in and out of it
14 because of the meds?

15 A The meds that I had taken when I was at my house
16 before I went to camp.

17 Q I understand when you say the meds you had taken at
18 your house. You mean the Vicodin, did you take Vicodin that
19 morning?

20 A I don't remember.

21 Q You took some pills that your mom had?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Your mom had kidney stones?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And she had pain medications?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1592

1 A Yes.

2 Q And you took three of those?

3 A I don't remember.

4 Q And she had insulin because she had diabetes?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And you took some of her insulin?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And that made you sick?

9 A Yes.

10 Q You threw up?

11 A I think I threw up when I got to the hospital.

12 Q Do you remember that you threw up at the YMCA camp?

13 A I don't remember.

14 Q And so you went to the YMCA camp and how long were
15 you at the YMCA camp before you went to the Chenango
16 hospital?

17 A I felt fine for like an hour and then I started not
18 feeling well and I was talking to one of the teen counselors,
19 she was staff and I was -- I had said I don't feel good,
20 she's like why? I was like I had taken my mom's meds and
21 then she told the camp nurse and he had called the ambulance.

22 Q And they took you to the hospital?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And Naomi showed up after you got to the hospital?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1593

1 Q Shortly after you got to the hospital or long time
2 later that night, next day, do you remember when?

3 A I don't remember.

4 Q But you do remember when you spoke with Naomi you
5 were in and out of it because of the medications you had
6 taken that morning, am I correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Lydia Smith, you've had conversations with Lydia
9 Smith about this matter, am I correct?

10 A I forgot who Lydia was.

11 Q She's a mental health worker, Chenango County
12 Mental Health?

13 A Oh, yes.

14 Q You met with her a number of times?

15 A I think twice.

16 Q How long did you meet with her?

17 A The first time was after I got out of the hospital
18 that day and the second was when I had cut myself.

19 Q Both in August of 2006?

20 A Yes.

21 Q You did not speak with Lydia Smith after August of
22 2006?

23 A No.

24 Q When you -- did you begin Chenango County Mental
25 Health visits in July of 2006?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1594

1 A No.

2 Q Do you remember Amanda Hartman?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Who was she?

5 A She was my other counselor because I did not really
6 like, I didn't really like Lydia.

7 Q So you asked to change from Lydia to Amanda
8 Hathaway?

9 A Yes.

10 Q I'm sorry. Amanda Hartman. There was also a
11 Melinda Hathaway who was a mental health counselor also, am I
12 correct?

13 A Yes.

14 Q How many times, if you remember, did you meet with
15 Amanda Hartman?

16 A She was the one that was pregnant, right?

17 Q I don't know.

18 A I spoke to her for a while but then she went on
19 maternity leave because she was pregnant and then I talked
20 to the other lady, tall one.

21 Q Melinda or Mini Hathaway sound right?

22 A I believe so. I just can't put the name with the
23 person who's pregnant or not.

24 Q Do you still see people at Chenango County Mental
25 Health on a regular basis?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1595

1 A No.

2 Q When was the last time you saw anybody there?

3 A I believe the last time was September or

4 November -- no. September/October.

5 Q Of 2007?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Do you remember working with Amanda Hartman doing
8 what she called a trauma narrative?

9 A Yes. Amanda was the one I saw after the other lady
10 had had her baby.

11 Q Do you remember that you started with Amanda
12 Hartman leading up to and around the time that you went to
13 the Greater Binghamton Health Center?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And did you stay working with Amanda Hartman right
16 through, say, December, end of December '07, five, six months
17 ago?

18 A No.

19 Q Dr. Waters, do you remember Dr. Waters of the
20 Chenango County -- I'm sorry, Chenango Memorial Hospital?
21 You went there for your examination.

22 A Was he the older guy?

23 Q I don't know. You went there on March 12, 2007,
24 after you spoke just couple days before, the phone call with
25 Mr. Sacco.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1596

1 A Yes.

2 Q Do you remember speaking with Dr. Waters about what
3 happened here?

4 A Yes.

5 Q When you spoke with Dr. Waters, he asked you
6 questions?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And were you honest with Dr. Waters when you talked
9 to him?

10 A I believe so. I don't remember the questions.

11 Q Okay. For example, do you remember Dr. Waters
12 asking you on March 12 of 2007, whether during the incidents
13 with Mr. Sacco, whether there had ever been any personal
14 violence against you, do you remember him asking you that
15 question?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Do you remember telling him at that time that no,
18 Dr. Waters, there has been no personal violence against me
19 during these incidents?

20 A Yes.

21 Q That's what you told him then?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And Liz Chesebro was with you at the time, right?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And, of course, you know Detective Blenis?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1597

1 A Yes.

2 Q You like Detective Blenis?

3 A He's cool.

4 Q In fact, one time when Liz was bringing you to a
5 Family Court appearance, you two had to stop -- you were in
6 fact late or, no, it wasn't family Court. When you and Liz
7 were going to a visit with your mom you were late for that
8 visit because you had to stop and drop Detective Blenis a
9 thank you note, am I correct?

10 A Yes.

11 Q You remember that?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Denise Oliver, you've spoken with her about this?

14 A Who?

15 Q Denise Oliver.

16 A I don't -- I don't remember.

17 Q Okay. Do you remember the videotaped interviews
18 that you gave in October and December of last year?

19 A Yes.

20 Q The first interview was with Detective Blenis?

21 A Yes.

22 Q That was October 29 does that sound, right?

23 A I don't know the exact dates.

24 Q Late October?

25 A Yes.

1 Q The second interview was in December with a woman
2 named Miss Oliver, do you remember that?

3 A I remember going but I don't remember the lady's
4 name.

5 Q Do you remember that interview, that December 5,
6 2007 interview?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Do you remember who else was present then?

9 A Liz was there and Miss Lisa and Detective Blenis
10 were in some other room.

11 Q Miss Lisa is Lisa Florance-Diaz?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Who was she?

14 A She was my therapist in Greater Binghamton Health
15 Center.

16 Q Was she your therapist during the whole time you
17 were there from September '07 until March of this year?

18 A Yes.

19 Q How frequently did you speak with her about these
20 subjects, these subjects?

21 A When I first got there I really didn't talk to her
22 and I wasn't opening up, but after a while I tried talking to
23 her like couple times a week.

24 Q She encouraged you to make disclosures, am I
25 correct?

1 A What?

2 Q She encouraged you to make disclosures about
3 things, didn't she?

4 A What's disclosures mean?

5 Q She encouraged you to tell about things that had
6 happened?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And when you told about things that had happened,
9 she helped you?

10 A Yes.

11 Q In fact, there were times when you would make what
12 I call disclosures and she would say good job and gave you
13 praise?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Do you know Maureen Span?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Who is she?

18 A She was the -- I believe the supervisor of DSS.

19 Q Did you have conversations with her?

20 A I said hello sometimes if I was in the office but
21 when I went to Greater Binghamton Health Center everyone's in
22 a CPEP, she's the one who took me.

23 Q What's CPEP?

24 A Something at General Hospital.

25 Q When did you go to CPEP?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1600

1 A September 19. They see if you need to go to a
2 psychiatric hospital and then they call to see what's open.

3 Q Sheila Azure?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Who was she?

6 A She helped my mom.

7 Q She was a parent aid, does that sound right?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Did you have conversations with her about any of
10 these subjects?

11 A I don't believe about any of the subjects. I
12 talked to her though.

13 Q Christen Crandall, Miss Christen, does that sound
14 familiar to you?

15 A Which -- was she the case manager?

16 Q Is that your recollection?

17 A I believe so. I don't know. There's so many
18 names.

19 Q How about Lorisa Osenbacker?

20 A I remember her.

21 Q Who was she?

22 A She was a case manager I believe and she took me
23 out with other kids, like we went skating once and we went to
24 the movies.

25 Q Did she work with DSS?

1 A I think she worked on the mental health part
2 upstairs.

3 Q There was an Adriana at the Greater Binghamton
4 Health Center?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Who was that?

7 A She was my favorite nurse.

8 Q Did you speak with her about this matter?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Did you know Connie Kinch, psychologist?

11 A Yes.

12 Q She saw you at Greater Binghamton Health Center?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And you spoke with her about this matter also?

15 A All I really remember talking to her about was when
16 she made me fill out this -- this packet.

17 Q How about Theresa Foster Jones?

18 A Yeah, I remember her.

19 Q Who is she?

20 A She was a friend of my foster family and because we
21 babysat her little boy.

22 Q Was she also working for DSS?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Lacy Ann Porter?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1602

1 Q Who was that?

2 A She works at DSS and is somebody that I can hang
3 out with and talk to.

4 Q About these subjects?

5 A No. She's more support. Like I hang out with
6 them, like they took me to a baseball game and stuff.

7 Q Did you have conversations with Lacy Ann Porter
8 about some of these subjects though?

9 A About coming to court.

10 Q How about Dr. Ready?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Who is Dr. Ready?

13 A She was another therapist at Greater Binghamton
14 Health Center.

15 Q And you spoke with her about these subjects?

16 A Yes.

17 Q You spoke with a number of other people, I assume,
18 about these subjects too, am I correct?

19 A Where I'm at now, yes.

20 Q From August of 2006 until now, you've spoken not
21 just with these people but with a multitude of other people
22 too?

23 A The only people that I've talkin' to that I
24 remember is people that were somehow in my treatment or were
25 from DSS.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1603

1 Q You care what those people think about you?

2 A Yes.

3 Q You don't want to let them down, do you?

4 A No.

5 Q Before you moved to 45 Fair Street in August of
6 2006, where was the last place you lived before you moved
7 there?

8 A Where I lived, meaning my mom owned it?

9 Q Yeah.

10 A Eleven River Street.

11 Q You lived with some other people between
12 11 River Street and 45 Fair Street, am I correct?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Who did you live with?

15 A Delores. Delores.

16 Q Is it Delores Stebers -- Delores Tompkins?

17 A All I know is her first name is Delores.

18 Q Where did she live?

19 A I don't know. I don't know the exact address.

20 Q What town did she live in?

21 A It was in between Deposit and some other place that
22 I don't know was -- I don't know.

23 Q Okay. Around Deposit?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. And you lived with Delores and your mom and

1 just the three of you there?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And that was in July of 2006?

4 A Yes.

5 Q What's Delores like?

6 A She's funny, spunky, very nice, very caring.

7 Q When you lived at Delores in July of 2006, before
8 you moved to Norwich, there was some question raised about
9 who rented Pay PerView pornography, pornographic movies, do
10 you remember that?

11 A Yes.

12 Q What do you remember about that?

13 A Delores had gotten a -- not a phone bill, a TV
14 bill, and she saw that stuff, like the Pay PerView stuff that
15 she didn't buy was on there.

16 Q When you spoke with Naomi Panus after August 11 of
17 2006, you told Naomi that your mom had been physically
18 hitting you, do you remember that?

19 A Yes.

20 Q You told Naomi that had been going on for quite a
21 long time, do you remember telling Naomi that?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Now, prior to that time your mom had hit you, am I
24 correct?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1605

1 Q And that had been going on for a long time, hadn't
2 it?

3 A Yes.

4 Q You told Naomi that your mom would sometimes hit
5 you for not apparent reason?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And you told Naomi that leading up to that
8 August 11 date, that there had been no food in the house for
9 quite some time, didn't you tell her that?

10 A I don't believe so.

11 Q No. On August 11, 2006, when Naomi spoke with you,
12 she had a conversation with you where she talked with you
13 about good touches and bad touches?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Do you remember that?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And you told her yes, I understand what you're
18 saying?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And on August 11 of 2006, you told Naomi that you
21 had never been touched in a bad way by anybody?

22 A Yes.

23 Q At that time in August of 2006 you were not taking
24 any medications?

25 A No.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1606

1 Q Had you taken diet pills?

2 A Not in August.

3 Q When did you start taking diet pills?

4 A I believe around January.

5 Q January of 2007?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Where would you get those?

8 A I -- my mom had asked me to steal them from the one
9 store.

10 Q Were those -- withdraw that. Did that just happen
11 one time or did it happen more than once?

12 A I had taken one bottle but I took the pills more
13 than once.

14 Q I couldn't hear. I'm sorry.

15 A I had only taken one bottle from the store and I
16 had taken the pills more than once.

17 Q Your mom went into the hospital for kidney stones
18 in August of 2006?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Do you remember approximately when that was?

21 A I don't know around which date but I know it was on
22 a Sunday.

23 Q So she went into the hospital on a Sunday?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And she told you to stay with the Pipers upstairs?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1607

1 A Yes.

2 Q And as I understand it, at that point about that
3 time Mr. Sacco called and said I'm coming up the next day?

4 A I don't remember if he called that day but he had
5 called around -- somewhere around there.

6 Q Was it your recollection that Mr. Sacco intended to
7 come up then on a Monday?

8 A I believe so.

9 Q You knew that he had a job at Glenwood Furnishings?

10 A I knew he had a job in New Jersey but I didn't know
11 where.

12 Q So he generally just came up on the weekends?

13 A Yes.

14 Q When he came up on the weekends, did you ever see
15 him working on the house?

16 A Yes.

17 Q He worked on the house a lot, didn't he?

18 A Kind of.

19 Q What kind of work did he do on the house?

20 A He worked upstairs sanding the floors, trying to
21 fix the sink in the upstairs bathroom. I believe that was
22 it. I'm not sure.

23 Q Had walls been torn down on the second floor
24 apartment?

25 A No.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1608

1 Q Carpets had been taken up?

2 A No.

3 Q Was there at a kitchen at all in the upstairs
4 apartment?

5 A When I went up there with Dean, the second time --
6 well, the first time I went up with him there was no kitchen.

7 Q Did Dean have people helping him do work?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Who helped?

10 A I have no idea.

11 Q Do you know Clesson Lockwood?

12 A I believe so, yes.

13 Q Who was Clesson Lockwood?

14 A He worked on the house couple of times.

15 Q What did he do?

16 A I don't know. I didn't watch him.

17 Q How many times did he work on the house?

18 A I'm not sure.

19 Q Did he ever bring his son's with him?

20 A Yes, and his daughter.

21 Q And his daughter. Who were his sons?

22 A I don't know their names.

23 Q How old were they?

24 A I don't know.

25 Q How often did they come?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1609

1 A I don't know.

2 Q More than once?

3 A I believe so.

4 Q More than three or four times?

5 A I don't know.

6 Q You went to live with Delores Lang on August 21 of
7 2006?

8 A Not Delores, Renee.

9 Q Renee Lang, I apologize.

10 A That's okay.

11 Q You went to live with Renee Lang on August 21,
12 2006?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Do you remember what day of the week that was?

15 A It was a Monday.

16 Q When you first went to Renee's house, things were
17 pretty good?

18 A Yes.

19 Q You had a good relationship with her?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Slowly that changed?

22 A No.

23 Q No.

24 A We never fought. She only -- she didn't really
25 yell but she spoke to me about what I had done on the

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1610

1 computer but I -- but our relationship didn't -- it didn't go
2 bad.

3 Q Do you remember having conversations with Renee
4 Lang about times when there were other male members of the
5 family around and the way that you would act around those
6 male members of the family?

7 A No.

8 Q Are you saying that you don't remember whether
9 those conversations occurred or those conversations did not
10 occur?

11 A I believe they did not occur.

12 Q When you say you believe they did not occur, are
13 you absolutely certain of that?

14 A No.

15 Q At Renee Lang's you went on the computer and
16 accessed some pornographic sites?

17 A At Renee's daughter's house, not at Renee's house.

18 Q At her daughter's house, I'm sorry.

19 A Yes.

20 Q Renee's grandchildren were there?

21 A I believe so, yes.

22 Q They were four and six years old?

23 A Yes.

24 Q As I understand what you told the jury on your
25 direct examination, you went to those pornographic sites

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1611

1 because you were concerned that you might be pregnant because
2 the condom that Mr. Sacco used in August may have ripped or
3 been torn, is that your testimony?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Did you speak with Naomi Panus about that subject?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And what did you tell Naomi about that?

8 A She asked me what was going on, why I did it. And
9 I said nothing's going on, I don't know why I did it.

10 Q Well, do you remember telling Naomi that you went
11 on those sites because you knew another 12-year-old girl who
12 had gotten pregnant and you wanted to find out about that?

13 A I don't remember saying that.

14 Q On -- in March of 2007 when you had the telephone
15 conversations with Mr. Sacco, do you remember those?

16 A Yes, I do.

17 Q Before you had those telephone conversations, you
18 were given a script of some sort typed up by Detective
19 Blenis?

20 A I don't remember.

21 Q Do you remember having conversations with Detective
22 Blenis before you placed those phone calls where somebody
23 suggested to you that you tell Mr. Sacco you thought you
24 might be pregnant because you weren't sure if he had used a
25 condom or it might have torn?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1612

1 A No. I -- when he -- when I first went to go talk
2 to him, I had thought I was pregnant because I did not get my
3 period.

4 Q So, March 2007 you had a concern that a condom may
5 have torn in January, February, am I stating this correctly?

6 A When I had talked to Detective Blenis I had only
7 mentioned that the last time was in January.

8 Q And you told Detective Blenis about the potential,
9 maybe a condom ripped?

10 A Yes, but I was referring -- I didn't tell him what
11 had happened in February.

12 Q When you told Detective Blenis that, what time were
13 you referring to?

14 A I had said that the last time Dean had raped me was
15 in January but I did not tell him about the time in February.

16 Q Okay. So in March of '07 when you talked with
17 Detective Blenis about the last time, the last time, let's
18 say, January, okay, you told Detective Blenis that maybe the
19 condom had torn?

20 A Yes.

21 Q But -- you also say that you were checking the porn
22 sites at Renee Lang's daughter's house in September of '06
23 because you were concerned that a condom may have torn, am I
24 correct about that?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1613

1 Q In September of 2006, you were staying with Renee?

2 A Can you restate that, please.

3 Q Sure. In December of 2006 you were living at Renee
4 Lang's?

5 A Yes.

6 Q As I understand your testimony, before you moved,
7 before say August of 2006 when you lived at the Lang house,
8 there had been an adult sex toy in use there at some time, am
9 I correct?

10 A I didn't live there. I like when -- before August,
11 I had gone up to visit like when George was around.

12 Q So you had stayed at the Lang's house on occasion
13 prior to August of '06?

14 A On many occasions, yes.

15 Q And on those occasions you had seen an adult sex
16 toy at the Lang house at that time?

17 A Yes.

18 Q In September of 2006, when you went back to the
19 Lang's house?

20 A I went back in August.

21 Q Okay. And you stayed there through September?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And in September when you were still staying there,
24 September of '06, that adult sex toy was still there, wasn't
25 it?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1614

1 A No.

2 Q So if Renee Lang said that she caught you using
3 that adult sex toy in September of '06 --

4 MR. LOVRIC: Objection. That's not what she
5 said, I object.

6 THE COURT: Let's go to side-bar and
7 straighten it out.

8 (At the Bench).

9 THE COURT: Okay. Where are we with this?

10 MR. LOVRIC: That's not the testimony of Renee
11 Lang.

12 THE COURT: Let's hear what the question was,
13 Vicky, if we could. Maybe Kelly can recall it.

14 MR. FISCHER: My question was basically if
15 Renee Lang said she caught Shannon using an adult sex toy in
16 September '06, would that be correct or incorrect?

17 MR. LOVRIC: That wasn't her testimony. Renee
18 Lang said she went into the bedroom, Shannon was under the
19 covers and Renee suspected that Shannon was masturbating
20 herself. There was never any mention that she thought or
21 caught her using any sex toy.

22 THE COURT: That's right. That's my
23 recollection.

24 MISS PEEBLES: I think you read that in
25 something.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1615

1 MR. FISCHER: Renee gave a statement -- Renee
2 had given a statement where she said that she didn't testify
3 to it and I believe you're correct.

4 MISS PEEBLES: It's in a statement.

5 THE COURT: Well that's how it got in your
6 head. Okay. Just rephrase your question.

7 (In open Court).

8 MR. FISCHER: Thank you, your Honor.

9 BY MR. FISCHER:

10 Q Do you remember watching a movie with Renee Lang in
11 September of '06 about a girl who got pregnant and putting a
12 child up for adoption?

13 A I don't remember exactly what I watched.

14 Q But you remember an incident when you and Renee
15 were watching a movie on television?

16 A No, I don't. I don't remember what I watch.

17 Q Do you remember an incident when you got up from
18 where Renee was and you went into the bedroom where you were
19 staying and closed the door?

20 A There were many occasions when I got up and closed
21 the door.

22 Q Do you remember when Renee came in and you had the
23 covers pulled up over you?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Do you remember on that occasion what you were

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1616

1 wearing?

2 A No.

3 Q Do you remember that you weren't wearing anything?

4 A Maybe, yeah.

5 Q During 2006, did you have a boyfriend?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q Did you have more than one boyfriend?

8 A No.

9 Q Who was your boyfriend back in 2006?

10 A A kid I met from camp.

11 Q He was a counselor in training?

12 A No.

13 Q No. What was his name?

14 A I don't remember. When I -- last summer when I was
15 working the same program he was, he was like a junior
16 counselor but he wasn't a counselor. He was too young.

17 Q But you don't remember his name?

18 A I remember his name, Casey, but that wasn't in
19 2006.

20 Q When was that?

21 A That was last year.

22 Q There was a time when you spoke with Liz Chesebro
23 about Casey?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Do you remember what those discussions were?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1617

1 A One of them was where I was upset because Casey had
2 hit me.

3 Q You moved back from Renee Lang's to 45 Fair Street
4 when?

5 A Around October.

6 Q Do you remember when in October that was?

7 A I don't know the exact date but it was around the
8 13th or 14th.

9 Q And at that time the Pipers were still living
10 upstairs?

11 A Yes.

12 Q During that time, let's say -- withdraw that. Do
13 you remember what day of the week it was when you moved back
14 from Renee's to 45 Fair Street?

15 A No.

16 Q Where were you going to school at that time?

17 A When I lived with Renee I went to Harpursville
18 school.

19 Q Did you remain in Harpursville school when you came
20 back from Renee's to 45 Fair Street?

21 A No.

22 Q You changed schools at that time?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Mr. Lovric asked you about conversations you had
25 with Mr. Sacco on the phone between a cellphone you had and

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1618

1 Mr. Sacco's cellphone. Do you remember that question?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Were there other times when Mr. Sacco was in
4 contact with your residence on the landline that went into 45
5 Fair Street?

6 A I believe he called my mom.

7 Q Well, do you remember when you all moved from
8 Deposit to Norwich at 45 Fair Street?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Do you remember whether that was August 1, August 2
11 or some other time?

12 A I believe it was August 1.

13 Q How much stuff did you have with you to move?

14 A I had -- well, I was at Delores's. My mom had
15 bought me a full size bed. I had had some clothes that
16 somebody gave me, and I believe my book bag and a stuffed
17 animal.

18 Q Did your mom bring furniture with her also?

19 A After she had cleaned out the house, she had some
20 blankets.

21 Q After she had cleaned out which house?

22 A The 11 River Street.

23 Q The flood house?

24 A Yes.

25 Q She didn't have a bed?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1619

1 A What?

2 Q She didn't have a bed of her own?

3 A She was given one by Delores.

4 Q What about the couch that was in the first floor
5 apartment at 45 Fair Street, where did that come from?

6 A It came from either relative or a friend of Erin
7 Carol.

8 Q And where did you put your clothing, were there
9 dressers there?

10 A When we got to 45 Fair Street, Delores had given me
11 dressers and a stand. My mom had went out shopping, got like
12 dishes and like stuff that we needed to set up for the house.

13 Q So all of this stuff got moved into 45 Fair Street?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Your mom had some conversations with Mr. Sacco on
16 the phone before you moved in, am I correct?

17 A I believe so. I only heard one.

18 Q Where were you when that conversation was held?

19 A Me and Delores were in the car because we were
20 going up to see the apartment as she was talking to him.

21 Q Where was he at that time?

22 A I'm not quite sure. I believe he was in New Jersey
23 but I don't know.

24 Q Eventually you actually -- did you go with your mom
25 to look at the apartment when Mr. Sacco was there the first

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1620

1 time?

2 A Mr. Sacco was not there the first time we saw it.

3 Q Okay. The first time that you saw Mr. Sacco there,
4 you met him to look at the apartment?

5 A No.

6 Q Okay. When's the first time you went into the
7 apartment to look at it?

8 A When my mom had called up Dean and we went there
9 and the Pipers showed us the house.

10 Q The Pipers showed it to you?

11 A Yes.

12 Q How did they get in, do you know?

13 A I don't know. They must have had a key.

14 Q Mr. Sacco drive a car, he had a vehicle?

15 A Yes.

16 Q What kind of vehicle did he have?

17 A I'm not sure.

18 Q Do you remember what color it was?

19 A I believe it was red but I'm not quite sure.

20 Q It was a car, not like a pickup truck?

21 A No, it was a car.

22 Q Do you remember the way that the outside of the
23 building at 45 Fair Street was set up?

24 A Yes.

25 Q If I'm standing at the curb looking at the house,

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1621

1 how would you go into the first floor?

2 A There was two ways. There was, as you look at the
3 front of it, there was like a little tiny porch and a door
4 and then another door and that would get into our living
5 room. And then if you went from the curb you walked -- there
6 was a stone path to the side of the house where there was a
7 door and a porch that went into the kitchen.

8 Q And if you went around back, there was an entrance
9 to the upstairs?

10 A On the front of the house there was one. Here was
11 our porch and then there was stairs and a door and you went
12 upstairs to get to the upstairs and then on the same side
13 where our other porch was to the kitchen there was another
14 door and stairs.

15 Q And there were garages and a shed out back?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And there was a driveway?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Where was the driveway?

20 A Like if the house was here, it was on this side
21 from the back (indicating).

22 Q If you're looking at the house from the curb, the
23 driveway was on the left or the right?

24 A On the right.

25 Q Okay. When Mr. Sacco came up, where did he park

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1622

1 his car?

2 A Usually behind the house.

3 Q So he'd come in through the driveway and park
4 between the house and the garages?

5 A Yes.

6 Q To go upstairs then you had to go up onto the
7 landing, if you were in the back of the house you had to go
8 up on the landing and there was a door there and it would
9 take you up those stairs?

10 A Yes.

11 Q As you're going up the stairs to get to the landing
12 there's also a door to the right that goes down to the
13 basement, am I right?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Do you remember that?

16 A Yes.

17 THE COURT: Okay, ladies and gentlemen. We're
18 going to take a break.

19 (Short break taken).

20 (Jury present).

21 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Fischer.

22 MR. FISCHER: Thank you, your Honor.

23 BY MR. FISCHER:

24 Q Miss O'Connor, the first night that you stayed at
25 45 Fair Street, is that the night you claim that Mr. Sacco

1 stayed overnight?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Did you go out for pizza that night?

4 A I don't remember.

5 Q Do you remember going to McDonald's the next
6 morning?

7 A No, I don't.

8 Q Do you remember that you did not go to McDonald's
9 the next morning?

10 A I don't remember.

11 Q You don't remember one way or the other --

12 A No.

13 Q -- is that correct?

14 A Yes.

15 Q You used to go to the YMCA --

16 A Yes.

17 Q -- on a regular basis?

18 A Yes.

19 Q You'd see Mr. Sacco at the YMCA?

20 A A couple of times.

21 Q Do you remember shooting baskets with Mr. Sacco at
22 the YMCA?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And you went to the pumpkin fest in Norwich with
25 your mom and Mr. Sacco and walked around Norwich one day,

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1624

1 didn't you?

2 A From my memory, I just remember me and my mom
3 walking when the pumpkin fest was going on.

4 Q Did you carve pumpkins that day?

5 A Not the day when it opened.

6 Q Do you remember walking around the pumpkin festival
7 in Norwich on one day when you did carve pumpkins there?

8 A Yes, it was at nighttime.

9 Q Was Mr. Sacco with you on that occasion?

10 A Yes.

11 Q You went to the YMCA on occasion and went swimming?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And Mr. Sacco went swimming on occasion when you
14 were also swimming there?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And you went ice skating with Mr. Sacco?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And you went horseback riding with Mr. Sacco?

19 A Not with him. He took me up to -- that one guy's
20 house.

21 Q Steve Lantro?

22 A Whoever helped him with the house.

23 Q You knew the fellow from helping Mr. Sacco work on
24 the house, that fellow had worked on the house on a number of
25 occasions with Mr. Sacco?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1625

1 A Yes.

2 Q They put in a boiler system?

3 A I -- I don't know.

4 Q They did work down in the basement though?

5 A I don't remember.

6 Q You don't remember that it was Mr. Lantro who owned
7 the horses?

8 A I don't remember his name.

9 Q Now, Mr. Sacco, on occasion came to the 45 Fair
10 Street house in Norwich accompanied by somebody else, am I
11 correct?

12 A I do not remember that.

13 Q Well, did Mr. Sacco's mom come up to the house on
14 occasion?

15 A I never seen his mom.

16 Q Do you remember another woman by the name of Mary
17 coming up to the house with Mr. Sacco?

18 A I don't remember.

19 Q In November and December of 2006, were you having
20 some difficulties in school?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Were you having some problems with some of the
23 other kids in school, am I correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And was that stressful?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1626

1 A Yes.

2 Q Let's say January of 2007, okay, now at that time
3 you had attended during the month of January, on at least a
4 couple of occasions, Family Court hearings involving your
5 family?

6 A I do not remember at all being in Court.

7 Q Do you remember -- withdraw that. Do you remember
8 writing to Ray?

9 A My father?

10 Q Yes.

11 A Yes.

12 Q That was in January of 2007?

13 A I don't believe it was January.

14 Q When you wrote to Ray, it was around the time when
15 there were Family Court hearings involving Ray's application
16 to have custody of you?

17 A That had taken place after I was with my foster
18 family.

19 Q After you were with your foster family, when was
20 that?

21 A Sometime around -- the weather was getting nice, I
22 remember that but I don't remember what month.

23 Q It was after your mom got arrested for leaving the
24 Pizza Hut?

25 A Yes.

1 Q So your testimony is that that was the first time
2 you had any -- had written to Ray concerning the issue about
3 custody?

4 A Yes.

5 Q The issue about Ray, there was a question in your
6 mind about whether he was your legitimate biological father,
7 am I correct?

8 A No.

9 Q There was no question in your mind about that?

10 A No, because I already knew that he wasn't my real
11 father.

12 Q When did you come to that conclusion?

13 A I think I had asked my mom a couple of times and
14 she said that he adopted me or something.

15 Q These are difficult, stressful subjects?

16 A Yes.

17 Q There were other things going on -- you're smiling
18 at someone. Who are you smiling at?

19 A One of my friends.

20 Q Who?

21 A Mr. Love.

22 Q Who?

23 A Mr. Love.

24 Q Who's that?

25 A He's my bodyguard.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1628

1 Q What do you mean?

2 A He works at the place I'm at and today he is my
3 bodyguard.

4 Q Tell me more about that, please.

5 A He's just here to protect me and support me.

6 Q Can you tell me more about that, please.

7 A There's not much to explain. He is here to support
8 me and protect me.

9 Q Where did you meet him?

10 A I met him at the place where I'm staying because he
11 works there. He's a supervisor of our unit.

12 Q You asked him to come along?

13 A Yes.

14 Q He didn't volunteer?

15 A He volunteered but I also asked him.

16 Q Going back to the events in January and February of
17 2007, your mom being arrested for walking out of Pizza Hut
18 without paying, that was a stressful event?

19 A Yes.

20 Q You were afraid that you might get arrested?

21 A Yes.

22 Q That created anxieties in you?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And you were removed from your home and your mother
25 after that incident, am I correct?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1629

1 A Yes.

2 Q And you were placed with a family that you had
3 never met before?

4 A Yes.

5 Q In January of '07, you remember your mom was not
6 taking her mood medications?

7 A Yes.

8 Q What happened?

9 A She became more angrier, very easily.

10 Q There was an incident that occurred after Christmas
11 where she threw a plate at you, a plate she had given you for
12 Christmas, do you remember that? That was important to you?

13 A No, that was a plate that -- I bought her a plate
14 set and a dish set and I gave it to her.

15 Q And when that happened, that was difficult for you?

16 A Yes.

17 Q So, after your mom was arrested for leaving the
18 Pizza Hut, there was Family Court scheduled to determine what
19 should happen with respect to you remaining at the foster
20 home or going back with your mother, am I correct?

21 A I don't remember. I didn't know when Court was.

22 Q Do you remember Liz Chesebro bringing you to Court
23 on occasion?

24 A I remember shortly after I was in foster care I
25 went to go visit my law guardian but I did not go in the

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1630

1 courtroom.

2 Q When you lived with the Hamiltons, you said things
3 were pretty good there?

4 A Yes.

5 Q But they weren't perfect?

6 A No family's perfect.

7 Q When Kim wasn't around, Dick got a little bit -- he
8 would yell?

9 A Even when she was around he wouldn't really yell
10 but he got frustrated because he works all day and then comes
11 home and there are seven screaming kids running around.

12 Q One of the screaming kids was Mandy?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And Kim on one occasion struck Mandy, am I correct?

15 A No.

16 Q Never?

17 A No.

18 Q Did Kim ever strike anybody, any of the children?

19 A I have never seen Kim strike anybody.

20 Q On March 1 of 2007, you spoke with Miss Chesebro,
21 the day before you first spoke with anybody about Mr. Sacco?

22 A I don't remember the dates.

23 Q Do you remember that the day before you spoke about
24 Mr. Sacco, you spoke with Liz Chesebro and you told her you
25 were having weird dreams that you and your mom were stabbing

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1631

1 each other?

2 A I don't remember that.

3 Q Do you remember ever telling Liz that you were
4 having weird dreams that your mom and you were stabbing each
5 other?

6 A I don't believe it was stabbing each other but I
7 believe there was fights in my dream and that my mom would
8 stab me but I never stabbed her.

9 Q So, it's your testimony that you never said that to
10 Liz Chesebro, that you and your mom were having dreams where
11 you were stabbing each other?

12 A Not that I remember.

13 Q Late February, early March, were you having any
14 difficulties with your eyes and glasses, etcetera?

15 A I've been having trouble with my eyes since we
16 lived in Deposit.

17 Q And, say, during the two weeks before March 2,
18 2007, do you remember having problems with your knees, seeing
19 Dr. Pat White and Dr. Fedorovich?

20 A I don't remember.

21 Q Did you have some problems with your knees?

22 A Yes.

23 Q When was that?

24 A You mean the last time or --

25 Q When did they begin?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1632

1 A It began when the flood -- after the flood, I was
2 walking down a hill and my knee dislocated.

3 Q In March of 2007, you had asthma. You took
4 albuterol?

5 A I didn't take any inhaler at my foster family's
6 house.

7 Q How about shortly before you went to your foster
8 family house, did you use an inhaler?

9 A We were in Deposit at 11 River Street when I
10 started using my inhaler and that was the last time.

11 Q So you didn't use it in February and March of 2007?

12 A I don't recall, no.

13 Q Do you remember complaining about chronic ear
14 infections and particularly a problem with your left ear
15 during the couple weeks before March 2, 2007?

16 A I don't remember.

17 Q Do you remember complaining during that time frame
18 about when you slept on your back, your larynx would swell,
19 you had sleep apnea, you had difficulty sleeping?

20 A I think what you're referring to is not from 2007
21 because then I was with my foster family and I didn't have
22 those problems.

23 Q When did you have those problems?

24 A When we were in Deposit.

25 Q During the week before March 2 of 2007, do you

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1633

1 remember being in school and feeling like you were going to
2 throw up?

3 A Yes. There was a lot of times in school where I
4 thought I was going to throw up.

5 Q Do you remember telling Christen Crandall on
6 March 1, 2007 that you felt that way?

7 A No.

8 Q Do you remember saying at about that time to
9 Christen Crandall that you were having physical and emotional
10 responses in fear of your mother?

11 A I don't remember.

12 Q Do you remember that on the day before you made a
13 statement, your first statement about Mr. Sacco, you had a
14 supervised visit with your mother?

15 A I don't remember exact dates but I remember
16 visiting my mother.

17 Q Does it sound correct that it was within a couple
18 of days before you first spoke with anybody about Mr. Sacco?

19 A I believe so.

20 Q And the day before you had a disclosure concerning
21 Mr. Sacco, you had a conversation with Liz Chesebro talking
22 about an incident that occurred on the school bus where a
23 girl brought a condom, am I correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And at this time you're not taking any medications,

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1634

1 am I correct?

2 A This time now or --

3 Q I'm sorry. I apologize. At this time, when I say
4 this time, March 1, let's say of 2007, you were not taking
5 any medications, am I correct?

6 A Yes. You're correct.

7 Q And March 2 was the first closure concerning
8 Mr. Sacco?

9 A I believe so but I don't remember the dates.

10 Q Do you remember what day of the week it was?

11 A I do not.

12 Q Do you remember going to the police station that
13 day?

14 A That night, yes.

15 Q You spoke with Detective Blenis?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And you gave a statement?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Have you reviewed that statement?

20 A What does that mean?

21 Q Have you looked at it?

22 A No.

23 Q Not since that day?

24 A No.

25 Q Did you sign the statement back then?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1635

1 A Yes.

2 MR. FISCHER: Exhibit S-20. May I approach,
3 your Honor?

4 THE COURT: Yes.

5 Q Would you look at that, please.

6 A You want me to read the whole thing?

7 Q Just take a quick look at it and tell me what it
8 is, please?

9 A It -- I believe it was the first statement or,
10 whatever, the first report.

11 Q That was given at the Norwich Police Department?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Liz Chesebro was present?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Detective Blenis was present?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Who else?

18 A I believe that time he was the only detective or
19 officer or anything.

20 Q So there was another officer present?

21 A No.

22 Q Oh, I'm sorry. Detective Blenis was the only
23 officer present?

24 A Yes.

25 Q When you spoke with Detective Blenis, Detective

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1636

1 Blenis made it clear to you it was important for you to be
2 truthful?

3 A Yes.

4 Q But you weren't truthful?

5 A It's not that I wasn't truthful. I was scared to
6 say everything.

7 Q Well, you didn't tell all of the truth at that
8 time, am I correct?

9 A Yes.

10 Q As I understand what you're saying now, on March 2
11 when you did that statement, though, you told Detective
12 Blenis about Mr. Sacco but you didn't tell him about your
13 mom, is that a fair statement?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Did you tell Detective Blenis the truth about
16 Mr. Sacco at that time?

17 A Yes. Of what I did say.

18 Q And did you tell Detective Blenis the whole truth
19 about Mr. Sacco at that time?

20 A Not of everything he did.

21 Q Other than pictures and your mom being involved,
22 when you spoke with Detective Blenis on March 2, 2007, did
23 you tell Detective Blenis the rest of the truth?

24 A Except for the pictures and my mom and their
25 hurtin' me, yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1637

1 Q And at that time you told Detective Blenis about
2 the event that you said occurred back in August of '06,
3 August 1 or 2 of '06?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And as I understand you told Detective Blenis that
6 Mr. Sacco stayed over that night, correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And you told Detective Blenis that Mr. Sacco had
9 had sex with you, correct?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And you told Detective Blenis at that time that you
12 were asleep on the couch, right?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And that Mr. Sacco was on top of you, that's what
15 you told him?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And you told Detective Blenis about Buddy, the dog?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Now, the couch is in what, the living room?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And this is an old house?

22 A It didn't look old to me.

23 Q Were their carpets on the floor or was it wood
24 floors?

25 A It was wood floors.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1638

1 Q You had problems with your mom over Buddy, the dog,
2 and house training Buddy, the dog, am I correct?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And, in fact, that came to the point where you and
5 your mom had an argument about that, right?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And your mom actually struck you about that?

8 A Yes.

9 Q But that night, as I understand your testimony,
10 Buddy, the dog, was barking that March 2 or, I'm sorry,
11 August 2 or August 1 night?

12 A He wasn't barking. He was in the living room with
13 me and he was jumping around.

14 Q Would you look at your statement with respect to
15 that August 1 or 2 date. Take a look and see if that
16 mentions that Buddy was barking?

17 A Where would I look, what paragraph?

18 Q Just take a look on that first page. It should be
19 there.

20 A Yes, it does say that.

21 Q That Buddy was barking?

22 A Yes.

23 Q That's what you told Detective Blenis at that time?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And that's what you -- you looked over the

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1639

1 statement before you signed it.

2 A Yes, I did.

3 Q You had time to do that?

4 A Yes, I did.

5 Q You also told Detective Blenis at that time that --
6 withdraw. What kind of a dog was Buddy?

7 A A cockapoo.

8 Q You told Detective Blenis that Buddy bit Mr. Sacco
9 on the back side?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Buddy got up on the couch and then bit Mr. Sacco?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Now, you were concerned that Mr. Sacco was going to
14 strike Buddy, am I correct?

15 A He did hit Buddy.

16 Q He did?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Would you read that statement to yourself, please,
19 and see if that refreshes your recollection that you said
20 that you were concerned that he would hit Buddy.

21 A Yes, it does say I thought he would, but he did.

22 Q But the statement that you gave on March 2, 2007 to
23 Detective Blenis does not say that Mr. Sacco hit Buddy,
24 correct?

25 A Correct.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1640

1 Q And whether Mr. Sacco hit Buddy or didn't hit Buddy
2 is important because you later on were concerned that if he
3 hit Buddy --

4 A He was going to hit me.

5 Q Okay.

6 A Yes.

7 Q On that March 2, 2007 conversation with Detective
8 Blenis, you talked about an incident that occurred next in
9 November of 2006?

10 A Yes.

11 Q I mean, the statement is set up chronologically.
12 First, August of '06 and then November of '06, am I correct?

13 A Yes.

14 Q So the next incident that you allege involved Mr.
15 Sacco occurred in November of 2006?

16 A It does say that.

17 Q Is that accurate?

18 A The second time was soon after I got home from
19 living with Renee.

20 Q Do you know whether it was October or November of
21 2006?

22 A I believe it was around October, late October.

23 Q But the statement says November?

24 A Yes, it does.

25 Q The statement given a year and a couple of months

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1641

1 ago, was your recollection of the events better when you gave
2 the statement in March of 2007 than it is today?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And as I understand the statement and what you told
5 Detective Blenis at the time was Mr. Sacco said to you, don't
6 make any noise so my mom won't hear us, right?

7 A His mom wasn't there.

8 Q No. No. Did you say to Mr. Sacco, I'm sorry,
9 withdraw that.

10 A You're getting me confused.

11 Q Did you hear Mr. Sacco say to you, don't make any
12 noise so your mom won't hear us?

13 A He told me to be quiet, yes.

14 Q So your mom wouldn't hear you?

15 A Yes.

16 Q But it's your testimony that within a short time
17 after that he was yelling, am I correct?

18 A No.

19 Q Would you read that portion of your statement
20 that's in front of you, see if that refreshes your
21 recollection that in March of 2007 you told Detective Blenis
22 that?

23 A You talking about August, right?

24 Q I'll back up. I'll back up. November of 2007.
25 Upstairs. Okay?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1642

1 A Yes.

2 Q At that time Mr. Sacco said to you don't make any
3 noise, I don't want your mom to hear us, am I correct?

4 A What had happened wasn't in November. It was in
5 October when I went up.

6 Q You're sure about that now?

7 A Yes.

8 Q But that's not what you said in March of 2007,
9 correct?

10 A Correct.

11 Q Whether October or November of 2007, at some point
12 you were upstairs with Mr. Sacco?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And Mr. Sacco said, as I understand your testimony,
15 don't say anything, I don't want your mom to hear us?

16 A He said to be quiet.

17 Q But within minutes thereafter he was yelling,
18 right?

19 A He wasn't yelling.

20 Q Would you look at your statement, please.
21 Specifically regarding the November -- in that statement
22 November of 2007 incident upstairs. Have you had -- have you
23 had a chance to read that to yourself?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Does that refresh your recollection about that

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1643

1 incident?

2 A I don't know how to explain it to you but I was
3 trying to get off and tell what had happened with Dean as
4 much as I could without saying anything about my mom or
5 George. So, if the times weren't exactly right because I
6 tried keeping stuff out about my mom.

7 Q So you were making this stuff up?

8 A No.

9 Q The conversation that you had with Detective Blenis
10 in March of 2007, March 2, 2007, as to whether Mr. Sacco told
11 you to be quiet and then Mr. Sacco yelled, was that accurate
12 at the time you made it, those statements?

13 A He did tell me to be quiet.

14 Q And he yelled shortly thereafter?

15 A I don't remember him yelling then because it was in
16 October and he told me to be quiet and not to say anything
17 and that's when he took the pictures.

18 MR. FISCHER: May I, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: What's the numerical designation
20 of that exhibit?

21 MR. FISCHER: S-20.

22 Q Do you remember telling Detective Blenis the
23 following: Dean told me that I could not make any noise
24 because my mom would hear us. Do you remember saying that to
25 Detective Blenis?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1644

1 A I do remember saying that.

2 Q Do you remember saying Dean stopped and got off
3 me -- withdraw that. Oh, I got scared and stopped. Dean
4 started yelling at me and told me to listen to him. Do you
5 remember telling Detective Blenis that at that time?

6 A I did say that.

7 Q You did or did not?

8 A I did.

9 Q When you told those things to Detective Blenis were
10 you referring to the same incident, the be quiet and yelling
11 or were you referring to two different incidents?

12 A To get off me part was at my birthday because he
13 pushed me off.

14 Q So the part of what this refers to relates to
15 something that occurred December 27, 2006?

16 A I wasn't finished.

17 Q I'm sorry.

18 A When he told me -- he pushed me off, that was for
19 my birthday. The yelling, I don't -- he told me to listen
20 and do what he said was from the second time because I had
21 told him that -- I said no when he asked me to pose for the
22 camera. And he did tell me to be quiet that second time.

23 Q When you spoke to Detective Blenis you lumped all
24 of these things into one occasion?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1645

1 Q Now, Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving '06. You
2 specifically remember that Mr. Sacco was present on
3 Thanksgiving day 2006 at the residence at 45 Fair Street,
4 correct?

5 A Yes.

6 Q What time was Thanksgiving dinner?

7 A I don't remember what time. My mom had started
8 making the turkey that morning.

9 Q So it was probably in the afternoon at some point
10 when you had dinner?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And with respect to your birthday, the day before
13 your birthday was the day of the party, am I correct?

14 A No.

15 Q Was it December 26, 2006 that you had the
16 cheesecake without fruit?

17 A No. It was on December 27.

18 Q So, if you said at some point that that cheesecake
19 incident was on the 26th, that was a mistake?

20 A Yes, because it was on my birthday when I turned
21 13.

22 Q And the statement that you gave to Detective
23 Blenis, do you remember saying this: My birthday is
24 December 27, the day before my birthday my mom had a
25 cheesecake for me. Do you remember telling Detective Blenis

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1646

1 that at that time?

2 A I don't remember it.

3 Q Do you think that your recollection of those events
4 is better at the time when you gave the statement in March of
5 2007 than it is now?

6 A What does that mean?

7 Q Did you remember what happened better back then
8 when you gave the statement or do you remember it better now?

9 A I remember it better now.

10 Q Was there something that was going on in March of
11 2007 that made it difficult for you to accurately remember
12 what happened?

13 A I was scared of going back home so I didn't say
14 anything about my mom or George so when you're trying to keep
15 stuff out, you can get dates wrong.

16 Q The December 27, 2006, day when you had the party,
17 that was the day that Brooke Parmalee and her dad came to the
18 house?

19 A No.

20 Q No?

21 A No.

22 Q When did Brooke Parmalee and her dad come to the
23 house in relation to your birthday?

24 A After I was sick for that week before we had
25 vacation, sometime when school was -- school had ended for

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1647

1 break she came over.

2 Q Was that in January of '07, do you recall?

3 A It was Christmas break. It was in December.

4 Q It was in December?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And you specifically now recall that it was not on
7 your birthday, am I correct?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And you remember that you were upstairs with
10 Mr. Sacco?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And you remember that your mother came knocking on
13 the door?

14 A Yes.

15 Q You don't remember that it was, in fact,
16 Mr. Parmalee who knocked on the door?

17 A It was my mother.

18 Q No doubt in your mind about that?

19 A No doubt in my mind.

20 Q And you came down the back stairs?

21 A I had gotten dressed and come down the stairs
22 that's by our kitchen.

23 Q I'm going to put on the screen what's in evidence
24 as Exhibit 100. Can you see that picture?

25 A Yes.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1648

1 Q Is that the door you came out of when Brooke
2 Parmalee and her dad came there?

3 A Yes, that is the door by our kitchen.

4 Q And that's the door your mom knocked on?

5 A She knocked on the -- there's a door upstairs, she
6 knocked on that one.

7 Q So there's a door shown in this Exhibit 100 and you
8 have to go up a set of stairs and there's another door there?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. And she came up those stairs and knocked on
11 that interior door at the top of the stairs?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And then when you came out of the apartment you
14 came down the stairs?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Was your mom already down the stairs?

17 A Yes. It took me couple minutes to get dressed.

18 Q And outside your mom and Mr. Parmalee and Brooke
19 Parmalee were out on that landing area shown in this picture?

20 A They were not exactly on that porch but around
21 there.

22 Q And you had had a conversation with Brooke there?

23 A Yes.

24 Q How long did that conversation last?

25 A I'm not sure. We were talking about what she was

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1649

1 going to get her dad for his birthday and I thought it was
2 all right and if I was all right because I hadn't shown up in
3 school.

4 Q What were you wearing at the time?

5 A I have no idea.

6 Q Now, as I understand it, Mr. Sacco also then came
7 down the stairs when Mr. Parmalee and Brooke and your mother
8 were there?

9 A Yes. As far as I remember.

10 Q How much after you came down did Mr. Sacco come
11 down?

12 A I don't remember the time.

13 Q When Mr. Sacco came down, Mr. Parmalee and Brooke
14 are still there?

15 A I believe so, yes. I believe that Dean was talking
16 to her dad.

17 Q So Mr. Sacco and Mr. Parmalee were having a
18 conversation?

19 A I believe so.

20 Q Do you know what they were --

21 A I was more focused on my friend Brooke.

22 Q Do you know what Mr. Sacco and Mr. Parmalee were
23 talking about?

24 A I was more focused on my friend Brooke.

25 Q Was Mr. Sacco's car there at that time?

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1650

1 A I don't remember.

2 Q And when the Parmalees left, how did they leave,
3 where did they go?

4 A They went to her car or her dad's car.

5 Q And where did your mom go?

6 A My mom went back into our apartment.

7 Q Where -- did you say good-bye to the Parmalees?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Where were you when you said good-bye to the
10 Parmalees?

11 A I was around back.

12 Q Did you stay there until they got in the car and
13 drove away?

14 A I believe so but I do not remember one hundred
15 percent.

16 Q Did Mr. Sacco also stay there until they got in the
17 car and left?

18 A I don't remember one hundred percent.

19 Q What percent do you remember?

20 MR. LOVRIC: Objection. What percent.

21 THE COURT: Basis.

22 MR. LOVRIC: He's asking her to guess
23 percentages. I'm just a little unclear as to what he's
24 asking.

25 MR. FISCHER: I can rephrase the question,

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1651

1 your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 BY MR. FISCHER:

4 Q How good is your recollection of those events?

5 A I'm shoving three years of my life into a couple of
6 hours, so I don't have the best memory, okay. I can't do
7 this anymore.

8 THE COURT: You need a break?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Take a short recess.

11 (Jury excused).

12 (At the Bench).

13 MISS PEEBLES: Judge, I've observed and my
14 psychologist also observed that the individuals who are in
15 the front row are making gestures to her standing up, telling
16 her to think and all sorts of other gestures and testimony
17 like this and I don't think that's appropriate, your Honor.
18 So I would ask, at least, that Mr. Lovric instruct those
19 individuals in the courtroom not to be coaching her
20 throughout her testimony.

21 THE COURT: Well, I agree that's not
22 appropriate. That should not be done so --

23 MR. LOVRIC: I'll -- I haven't seen because I
24 don't look in the back. I don't think anybody's coaching
25 her.

Shannon O'Connor - Cross

1652

1 MISS PEEBLES: She was being coached, I saw
2 her stand up and go think (indicating).

3 MR. LOVRIC: Miss Peebles, you put on the
4 record what you want to put on the record and I don't
5 interrupt it.

6 MISS PEEBLES: You just said you couldn't see
7 it. How could you say that? My child psychologist brought
8 it to my attention, I viewed it and saw it myself.

9 MR. LOVRIC: Finished? For the record, I
10 don't believe anybody is coaching anybody, for the record.
11 This girl has been under a lot of stress and there are people
12 here that have worked with her and trying to get her to get
13 through this and to cope with it. I will tell them not to
14 make any gestures but I don't think anybody has coached her.
15 I think they're trying to get her to simply be as compliant
16 as possible in answering questions on the stand. That's all
17 I think they're trying to do. Nobody's trying to tell her
18 what to say or how to stay it but I will tell people,
19 everybody that's here associated with her, not to make any
20 gestures.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?

22 MISS PEEBLES: No.

23 (In open Court).

24 (Discussion held of the record).

25 MR. FISCHER: Judge, I want to note, again,

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1 I'm much more familiar with the state than federal practice
2 but maybe it's different here but my understanding of what
3 the witness said when I began to cross was that she spoke
4 with Mr. Lovric about her testimony between her morning
5 testimony and her afternoon testimony.

6 THE COURT: You've got to pin it down a little
7 more than that. Obviously it's the same thing in federal
8 court that somebody who's in the middle of cross-examination
9 can't be spoken to by her attorney about the substance of her
10 testimony. If somebody says keep up the good work or slow
11 down or talk faster, or whatever, that's a different matter.
12 But we don't know what that is. If you want to ask her about
13 it, you can.

14 MR. LOVRIC: She wasn't under
15 cross-examination. I missed this between -- are you talking
16 about lunchtime?

17 THE COURT: No, even in the middle of direct.

18 MR. LOVRIC: At the lunchtime, if I sat down
19 and said, you know, have a good lunch and we're going to
20 cover these other things I haven't gotten to, that's fine.
21 Depends on --

22 THE COURT: Depends on what was said. It's in
23 the detail.

24 MR. LOVRIC: I don't think there's anything
25 inappropriate about that. She wasn't under

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1 cross-examination. I don't think that's the case.

2 THE COURT: He said, when he began his
3 cross-examination, he asked about conversations that the
4 witness had with you during the lunch break.

5 MR. LOVRIC: Go right ahead.

6 THE COURT: She said she talked to you is my
7 recollection.

8 MR. FISCHER: My understanding was she
9 indicated that there was a conversation concerning the
10 substance of the testimony, what she was going to say.

11 THE COURT: But I didn't hear -- let's go back
12 on the record and see what it says.

13 (Record read back).

14 MR. FISCHER: You're right.

15 THE COURT: I probably would have done
16 something at that point.

17 MR. FISCHER: I didn't ask her about
18 substantive conversations. Thank you.

19 THE COURT: You're welcome.

20 MR. FISCHER: Thank you.

21 (Jury present)

22 BY MR. FISCHER:

23 Q Miss O'Connor, I'd like to speak about some of the
24 things that you did not tell Detective Blenis in March of
25 2007, okay?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q You did not tell Detective Blenis that Mr. Sacco
3 had ever been violent, am I correct?

4 A Yes.

5 Q You didn't mention candles?

6 A No.

7 Q You didn't mention cameras?

8 A No.

9 Q Pictures?

10 A No.

11 Q Tripod?

12 A No.

13 Q You didn't mention anything about George?

14 A No, I didn't.

15 Q You didn't mention anything to Detective Blenis
16 about having looked at pornography before March of 2007, did
17 you?

18 A I believe -- I believe it came up with Liz or
19 something when we were talking about where it was when I was
20 at Renee's house and like -- I had to go through like where I
21 was and stuff, so it did come up.

22 Q You spoke with Detective Blenis, of course, in
23 October of 2007, am I correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And at that time you spoke about a number of things

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1 that you did not speak with him about in March?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Is it possible that you spoke with Detective Blenis
4 about viewing pornography during your October 2007, rather
5 than your March of 2007 discussions?

6 A I don't quite understand what you're saying.

7 Q I'll ask you a different question then.

8 A Thank you.

9 Q In March of 2007, did you mention anything to
10 Detective Blenis about towels?

11 A No, I don't remember.

12 Q Nothing about towels appears in your statement, am
13 I correct?

14 A I don't remember.

15 Q Do you want to look at your statement to see?

16 A Sure.

17 MR. FISCHER: May I approach, your Honor?

18 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

19 A I do not see in here where it says anything about
20 towels.

21 Q Okay. Do you recall that a couple days after this
22 statement that you were -- that you were at the Hamiltons?

23 A Yes, I lived there.

24 Q Do you remember that three days after giving this
25 statement you were out roller skating with the Hamiltons

1 having the time of your life?

2 A I don't think -- I don't know. I was out roller
3 skating but I really don't think that it's fair to say I had
4 the time of my life.

5 Q Do you remember telling Miss Chesebro that you had
6 the time of your life?

7 A Yes, but, again, being a teenager, that changes
8 quite often.

9 Q March 12, 2007, ten days after you gave the
10 statement at the Norwich Police Department, you went with
11 Elizabeth Chesebro to the Chenango Memorial Hospital,
12 correct?

13 A Correct.

14 Q Do you remember that?

15 A Yes, I do.

16 Q Do you remember Dr. Waters spoke with you then?

17 A Yes.

18 Q You know why you went to see Dr. Waters on that
19 occasion?

20 A Yes.

21 Q To get a physical examination?

22 A Yes.

23 Q To substantiate what you said on March 2?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And the doctor asked you questions, right?

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1 A Yes, he did.

2 Q And he asked you questions about what happened to
3 you physically, correct?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And you gave the doctor answers at that time?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And you knew it was important to give the doctor
8 accurate answers so that he could make an accurate
9 assessment?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Did the doctor ask you whether there was ever any
12 physical violence involving Mr. Sacco?

13 MR. LOVRIC: Objection.

14 THE COURT: Asked and answered?

15 MR. LOVRIC: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Sustained.

17 Q Did you ever tell Dr. Waters that Mr. Sacco had
18 slapped you?

19 A I don't remember saying that, no.

20 Q Did you ever tell him about the events involving
21 George and your mother that you say occurred back in Deposit?

22 A No.

23 Q I need to ask you these questions. In Deposit, the
24 incidents involving George and your mother of sexual abuse,
25 okay, I draw your attention to that time and those things for

1 a moment. On any of those occasions did George Lang or your
2 mother insert any part of their hands, fingers, etcetera into
3 your vagina?

4 A I do not believe so, no. I do not remember.

5 Q Have you ever told anybody that that did happen?

6 A No.

7 Q The next day you had had a conversation with
8 Elizabeth Chesebro where you told Liz that, and this is on
9 March 13, 2007, you told Liz that when I lived back in
10 Deposit there were pop ups on the computer that I would see
11 that were of a pornographic nature, do you remember telling
12 Liz that at that time?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Do you know whether Liz did anything at all to
15 follow-up about that at that time?

16 A I'm not sure. I don't know what she did or didn't
17 do.

18 Q Did Detective Blenis come back to you shortly after
19 that to speak with you about that subject?

20 A I don't remember.

21 Q On March 14, Elizabeth Chesebro brought you to the
22 Norwich Police Department for the controlled phone calls?

23 A I know she brought me there but I don't know the
24 exact dates.

25 Q Do you remember the phone calls?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q They occurred on two days?

3 A Yes.

4 Q One day right after another?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And it was within a couple of days after the
7 Chenango hospital, Chenango Memorial Hospital exam?

8 A It was some time around each other.

9 Q And do you remember them giving you a document that
10 Detective Blenis had typed up? I may have asked you this
11 already.

12 A What did you say?

13 Q Do you remember them giving you a document that
14 Detective Blenis had typed up?

15 A To read on the phone?

16 Q Yes.

17 A They had written stuff down on a piece of paper but
18 I don't recall anything being typed up.

19 Q Elizabeth Chesebro had written some notes about
20 suggesting some things that you might say?

21 A I believe so, yes.

22 Q And when you called Mr. Sacco on the phone and Mr.
23 Sacco answered, he did not seem surprised that you were
24 calling him, did he?

25 MR. LOVRIC: Objection.

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1 THE COURT: Well, I think if this witness can
2 discern in Mr. Sacco what he said was surprise or didn't
3 discern surprise, she can tell us that from what she heard.

4 MR. FISCHER: I can rephrase it along those
5 lines, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 Q When you placed the controlled telephone call to
8 Mr. Sacco, did you sense any surprise that he was, in him,
9 that you were calling him?

10 A I don't remember. I really vaguely remember the
11 phone calls.

12 Q Now, you remember that during the phone calls
13 Mr. Sacco said well, geez, what about all this stuff that you
14 told me about Grandpa, do you remember that?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Did he sound surprised that you were denying it?

17 A I -- I honestly don't know.

18 Q And it's your testimony here today that before that
19 time you have never spoken with Mr. Sacco about Grandpa, am I
20 correct?

21 A I didn't tell him about it. He asked me about it,
22 like he already knew.

23 Q Are you saying that somebody else must have told
24 him about that subject?

25 A Yes.

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1 Q Before that phone conversation had you ever spoken
2 with Mr. Sacco about Grandpa?

3 A He had asked some questions about it and I said
4 yeah to a couple of his questions.

5 Q You said -- I'm sorry?

6 A I wasn't the one who told him.

7 Q You said yeah to a couple of his questions?

8 A Yeah. Yes.

9 Q What questions was he asking?

10 A I don't remember but I remember him questioning me
11 and me saying yes.

12 Q Did you reveal to Mr. Sacco before the controlled
13 phone calls that Grandpa had been inappropriate with you?

14 A He had asked me and I said yes.

15 Q About when he asked you, he asked you about that
16 specific subject?

17 A He was talking about George and I don't remember
18 his exact words but he asked me questions about that, yes.

19 Q When did that conversation with Mr. Sacco occur
20 prior to the controlled phone call?

21 A I don't quite remember the date.

22 Q Where were you when that conversation occurred?

23 A I believe I was downstairs.

24 Q In your mom's apartment?

25 A I believe so but I don't quite remember.

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1 Q Was your mom present?

2 A No.

3 Q Just you and Mr. Sacco in your mom's apartment?

4 A I'm not sure if it was my mom's apartment. It was
5 either upstairs or in my mom's apartment.

6 Q Prior to the controlled phone calls, had you ever
7 had telephone conversations with Mr. Sacco?

8 A No.

9 Q Never?

10 A Not where I called him, no.

11 Q Did you ever have any conversations with Mr. Sacco
12 on the phone when Mr. Sacco had called you before the
13 controlled calls?

14 A He never called me. He always called my mother.

15 Q At the landline at 45 Fair Street?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Were there occasions when you answered the phone
18 and Mr. Sacco was calling?

19 A Yeah. Usually always answered the phone.

20 Q Were there ever times when you and Mr. Sacco had
21 conversations that lasted more than a minute?

22 A Not that I remember, no.

23 THE COURT: Maybe this is a good time to break
24 for the day. All right, ladies and gentlemen. I guess you
25 can probably tell me these instructions as well as me telling

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1 you because you've heard them enough. Tomorrow's 9:30. Just
2 remember not to discuss the case among yourselves, with
3 anybody else or permit anyone to discuss it with you. No
4 contact with the media or do research on your own. Have a
5 pleasant evening. Cover your vegetables.

6 (Jury excused).

7 THE COURT: All right. Already. I'd like to
8 have a preliminary conversation with counsel off the record
9 about the subject of expert testimony so we'll know where
10 we're going if anybody wants to present any law to me about
11 that.

12 (Discussion held off the record)

13 (Court stands adjourned)
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, VICKY A. THELEMAN, RPR, CRR, United States Court Reporter in and for the United States District Court, Northern District of New York, do hereby certify that I attended at the time and place set forth in the heading hereof; that I did make a stenographic record of the proceedings had in this matter and cause the same to be transcribed; that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the same and the whole thereof.

VICKY A. THELEMAN, RPR, CRR
United States Court Reporter
US District Court - NDNY

Dated: August 15, 2008.